

Mr Callaghan offers to meet President Amin if conditions spared

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Personal delivery of letter refused

By Our Correspondent

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, told the House yesterday that he was prepared to meet President Amin to discuss relations between Britain and Uganda. But first of all the Ugandans must show mercy towards the two Britons being executed.



Rescuers amid the tangled wreckage after a pensioners' holiday coach from Brighton had been in collision with a lorry in Dumfriesshire yesterday. Nine people were killed and 25 injured, some seriously. Report, page 2.

Big gains by Communists in Italian elections

By Peter Nichols

Rome, June 16

Big gains for the Communists in the Italian elections, shown by early results, are expected to be reflected in the regional elections.

Partial figures from the principal cities show gains of up to 9 per cent in Rome and Milan, only a little less in Turin and between 5 and 6 per cent in Florence. The general trend shows losses by the governing Christian Democrats and the small left parties.

Communist estimates of the likely gains when the full results are to hand were cautious at first, but the feeling was of a substantial gain.

Two points appeared clear: the communists are the main beneficiaries from the feeling in the country of a need for a change; it looks, too, as if the Christian Democrats' defeat on the divorce issue in May last year was a sign of the times and not an isolated result.

These elections, being regional, do not have a direct effect on the national government, but the left-wing advance is maintained tonight.

The governing parties at national level will be forced to take heed of the shift in the country.

At the Christian Democrats' headquarters this evening, there was considerable optimism that, despite signs of a move leftward, the principal governing party would manage to hold its ground.

Industry pessimistic on voluntary pay deal

By Paul Roudledge

Labour Editor

Leaders of industry will go into tomorrow's talks with union leaders on a joint TUC-CBI voluntary incomes policy with more enthusiasm than optimism.

With a forecast that the Government may impose statutory wage restraint next month, having accepted the TUC's invitation to urgent talks at Congress House on new pay guidelines, CBI leaders feel that unless agreement can be reached within a month, or six weeks at the most, the Chancellor will introduce legal controls.

The employers recognize that moderate members of the TUC Central Council and some of their left-wing colleagues now realize the economic danger of wage inflation running at its present rate. But they argue that speeches such as the one Mr Scanlon made yesterday, and a trade union conference decision such as the miners' impending commitment to demand pay rises of up to 65 per cent, will vitiate any possibility of a voluntary deal.

Opening his union's conference yesterday, Mr Scanlon, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, defended the central objective of the social contract, the maintenance of living standards.

At the Christian Democrats' headquarters this evening, there was considerable optimism that, despite signs of a move leftward, the principal governing party would manage to hold its ground.

Mr Scanlon will be among a six-man TUC team that will meet the CBI tomorrow night.

Despite a groundswell of support among TUC economic committee members in favour of Mr Jack Jones's plan for a uniform, flat-rate increase for all workers, the CBI side rates the chances of ultimate agreement on a joint policy of restraint that could be put to the Government for endorsement as doubtful.

Scepticism by the CBI arises partly from the different scale of thinking between the employers and the unions. Employers want pay settlements to be running at less than 15 per cent by the end of the year, but that figure is the lower limit so far mentioned in TUC policy.

When they meet the TUC side, CBI leaders are expected to argue that their more restrictive ideas on pay will prove more successful in safeguarding living standards than allowing wage inflation to run at any level near its present rate. No figures have been put to the employers' view, but they seem to be thinking in terms of about 10 to 12 per cent.

The CBI side is looking for tougher wage restraint only, and does not intend to be drawn into the wider political partnership of the social contract. It also sees some serious objections to Mr Jones's flat-rate formula, in particular its "dam building" propensities, the building up of anomalies caused by compressing differentials in industry.

Scanlon blow, page 2
Business News, page 17

Industry pessimistic on voluntary pay deal

By Paul Roudledge

Labour Editor

Leaders of industry will go into tomorrow's talks with union leaders on a joint TUC-CBI voluntary incomes policy with more enthusiasm than optimism.

With a forecast that the Government may impose statutory wage restraint next month, having accepted the TUC's invitation to urgent talks at Congress House on new pay guidelines, CBI leaders feel that unless agreement can be reached within a month, or six weeks at the most, the Chancellor will introduce legal controls.

The employers recognize that moderate members of the TUC Central Council and some of their left-wing colleagues now realize the economic danger of wage inflation running at its present rate. But they argue that speeches such as the one Mr Scanlon made yesterday, and a trade union conference decision such as the miners' impending commitment to demand pay rises of up to 65 per cent, will vitiate any possibility of a voluntary deal.

Opening his union's conference yesterday, Mr Scanlon, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, defended the central objective of the social contract, the maintenance of living standards.

At the Christian Democrats' headquarters this evening, there was considerable optimism that, despite signs of a move leftward, the principal governing party would manage to hold its ground.

Mr Scanlon will be among a six-man TUC team that will meet the CBI tomorrow night.

Despite a groundswell of support among TUC economic committee members in favour of Mr Jack Jones's plan for a uniform, flat-rate increase for all workers, the CBI side rates the chances of ultimate agreement on a joint policy of restraint that could be put to the Government for endorsement as doubtful.

Scepticism by the CBI arises partly from the different scale of thinking between the employers and the unions. Employers want pay settlements to be running at less than 15 per cent by the end of the year, but that figure is the lower limit so far mentioned in TUC policy.

When they meet the TUC side, CBI leaders are expected to argue that their more restrictive ideas on pay will prove more successful in safeguarding living standards than allowing wage inflation to run at any level near its present rate. No figures have been put to the employers' view, but they seem to be thinking in terms of about 10 to 12 per cent.

The CBI side is looking for tougher wage restraint only, and does not intend to be drawn into the wider political partnership of the social contract. It also sees some serious objections to Mr Jones's flat-rate formula, in particular its "dam building" propensities, the building up of anomalies caused by compressing differentials in industry.

Scanlon blow, page 2
Business News, page 17

NUR ready to talk, Mr Wilson is told

By Our Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Union of Railwaymen last night passed back to Mr Wilson the responsibility for averting next Monday's threatened rail strike by declaring a willingness to negotiate "at any time" on their claim for pay rises of up to 35 per cent.

After the NUR executive had carried a resolution reiterating their readiness to negotiate, Mr Sidney Weighell, the union general secretary, got in touch with the Prime Minister's private office.

Mr Wilson, who was at a ministerial meeting, was given the NUR message but no talks were arranged last night. That does not, however, rule out further government intervention in the next 48 hours.

The union expects that talks will be arranged either with the Government or with British Rail, after the railways board has been authorized to negotiate beyond the 25 per cent arbitration award, which has been rejected.

The resolution carried last night said that the railwaymen's leaders had recognized the serious effects that would follow a national stoppage of the kind threatened from June 23. At the same time, it emphasized that the NUR claim was a just one and added that the union was prepared to negotiate at any time to see how its case could be met.

There was no vote on whether the strike should be called off. "There was no need to reaffirm the strike decision," Mr Weighell said. "Members of the executive reporting the response from meetings in the country say the majority varies from overwhelming to unanimous in support of strike action. The meeting showed solid support from every part of the country. The strike is still on."

Travel plan: An attempt to organize travellers into forming their own transport system in the event of a national rail strike was launched yesterday. The aim is to put those needing transport in touch with those who can provide it.

An advertisement in the Brighton Evening Argus yesterday asked commuters to fill in a coupon saying what travelling they needed to do, and to make a donation to Current Affairs Press, the organizers, which would be returned if the strike was called off. A further coupon is provided for motorists willing to carry passengers.

Mr Ross McWhirter, the author, who is spokesman for Current Affairs Press, said in London yesterday that if the response to the advertisement was good, similar ones would be placed in national newspapers and in those serving commuter areas around London and Manchester.

The scheme would be non-profit making, he said. But unless the replies to the advertisement run into thousands rather than hundreds, it would not be pursued. The group was hopeful of success, however. State industry wage fixing, page 19

'Observer' closure warning to staff

By Our Labour Editor

The Observer newspaper will be closed in September unless immediate redundancies producing a 30 per cent cut in the wages bill are made, printing union leaders expect to be told tomorrow.

General secretaries and shop floor leaders of all unions with members employed at the newspaper's plant at Queen Victoria Street, London, have been called to a meeting at the Waldorf Hotel to be told about financial losses estimated to be running at about £500,000 this year.

The management has told line managers and office branch union officials that as many as a third of the 700 workers must be made redundant if the newspaper is to survive. The axe is likely to fall among production workers rather than journalists.

Initial reaction from the trade unions is mixed. Some, including Natsopa, feel that the job sacrifice is worth while if the Observer is able to continue publication with a reduced staff. Others say that if the newspaper's finances are as bad as they are made out to be, it should be closed quickly so that printing workers can seek jobs elsewhere.

No comment was available from the paper's management last night.

Ministers decide timing of devolution legislation

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

The Government's plans for the devolution of power to elected assemblies in Scotland and Wales were reviewed by more than 20 ministers at a meeting over which Mr Wilson presided at Chequers yesterday.

In a discussion which continued from 10.40 am until nearly 4 pm, with a short break for lunch, the ministers went through the proposals section by section. An agreement was reached on many of the details which were left undecided in the White Paper published last September.

That document remains the

basic reference for the proposals, but another White Paper will be published in the autumn to explain the proposed legislation in greater detail. Among the ministers present were: Lord Crowsley, Minister of State, Education and Science, and Mr Gerald Fowler, Minister of State, Privy Council Office, who have special responsibilities in the preparation of the legislation.

After the meeting it was stated that it is the Government's first intention to introduce the devolution legislation as early as possible in the next session of the present Parliament.

Scottish Labour views, page 5

Lady Lucan identifies husband as assailant

Lady Lucan told the Westminster coroner yesterday that her husband was the man who attacked her in their Belgrave home on the night their children's nursemaid was found battered to death. After counsel for the Dowager Lady Lucan asked Lady Lucan about "feelings of hatred" for her husband, and quoted from a letter written by him referring to "the dream of paranoia", the coroner stopped that line of cross-examination. Page 4

Recession starts to show in retail sales with 14 pc fall last month

Retail sales dropped by 14 per cent last month compared with April. A large fall had been expected after April's high sales of durables ahead of the 25 per cent VAT rate, but the new figure implies that the recession is beginning to affect the level of consumer buying. Page 17

Violence feared in Portugal

The Revolutionary Council in Portugal has been holding all night crisis talks at the threat of violence grows in several parts of the country. A national search was mounted yesterday for men who stole machine-guns from an Army barracks. Page 3

Liberal choice

Mr Andrew Phillips, a solicitor, who was Labour candidate at Harwich in the 1970 general election, has been adopted as prospective Liberal parliamentary candidate for the Saffron Walden constituency. October, 1974; P. M. Kirk (C), 21,291; F. D. Moore (L), 14,770; B. Green (Lab), 12,632; C

Base pact ends

The Simonstown naval agreement between Britain and South Africa came to an end yesterday just short of its twentieth anniversary. The British base there will close and Royal Navy vessels will use the facilities only on a customer basis. Page 6

Rosewall again

Ken Rosewall, aged 40, has been made second seed to Jimmy Connors for the Wimbledon championships starting next Monday. Martina Navratilova (18) is seeded to meet Christine Evert in the women's final. Page 8

Electoral reform

A Bill to establish the alternative vote was introduced in the Commons yesterday. Sir Bernard Rhys Williams, Conservative MP for Kensington, said his object was to contribute to the public debate now developing on electoral reform. Page 4

Leader page 15

Letters: On the railwaymen's claim from the General Secretary of the NUR; on the Crossman diaries from Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC; MP; on auction room commission charges from Mr David Mason.

Leading articles: Electoral reform; Mr Rabbin's return.

Features, pages 7 and 12: Fred Emery explains the results of America's soul-searching inquiry into the CIA; Martin Modiano says the Greeks may argue about their new constitution but they are all determined to defend it.

Arts, page 11: Paul Ovey on the art of the European Renaissance at the National Gallery; Alan Blyth on the English National Opera at the Victoria Festival; William Mann on the opening of Henry Wood Hall.

Obituaries, page 12: Commander Dr Melville Dinwiddie, Commander Sir Richard Colville.

Sport, pages 8 and 9: Racing: Michael Phillips previews the first day of Royal Ascot; Rugby Union: John Burgess resigns as England coach; Cricket: Hampshire win in two days.

Business News, pages 17-23: Stock markets: Shares drifted lower as the City awaited developments on the impending rail strike. The FT index fell 5.1 to 335.35.

Finance: Editor: Whitbread wants to be a discounter; Comet transforms the cash position; Edgewood faces tougher conditions.

Business features: The significance of Whitehall's attitude to the British Steel Corporation's price changes is examined by Peter Hill; Eric Wigham on the need for a fresh approach to wage fixing in the state industries.

Business Diary: A delicate time ahead for the new chairman of the British Importers' Confederation.

Home News	2, 4, 5	Diary	14	Science	16
European News	6, 7	Engagements	16	Sport	8, 9
Overseas News	6, 7	Features	7, 14	TV & Radio	25
Arts	11	Law Report	15	Theatres, etc	10, 11
Business	17-23	Letters	15	25 Years Ago	16
Chess	6	Obituary	16	Universities	16
Court	16	Parliament	10	Weather	16
Crossword	26	Sale Room	5	Wills	12

SHAREHOLDERS Spread your risks and benefit from professional investment management.

By exchanging your shares for a unit trust holding you can ensure that your investments benefit in a number of ways. Unit trusts offer a far wider spread of investment than most investors could readily obtain on their own and also have certain advantages over direct investment in shares where capital gains tax is concerned.

The Save & Prosper Share Exchange Plan gives you access to any of 25 Save & Prosper Group unit trusts, which between them cover most portfolio requirements. In addition, you know that your assets are under the constant supervision of experienced investment managers.

The Plan is available for portfolios currently valued at £500 or more and offers these special advantages:
Higher exchange valuation. If we can accept your shares as part of one of our portfolios we will give you the market offer price for them. This could be 2%-3% more than you would receive by selling them at the market bid price.

Saving on dealing costs. If we are unable to accept particular shares into our portfolio, we will sell these for you through a stockbroker, normally without making any deduction for the costs of commission and stamp duty incurred.

An exchange of shares would be considered a disposal for capital gains tax purposes.
For further details without obligation, please complete and return the coupon.

To: Customer Services, Save & Prosper Group,
4 Great St. Helens, London EC2P 3EP. Tel: 01-554 8899.

Please send me full details of the Save & Prosper Share Exchange Plan.

(Block Capitals)
Name _____
Address _____

125-BA/1

Not applicable to the Republic of Ireland.

SAVE & PROSPER GROUP

Four MPs seek statutory prices freeze

Parliamentary

front

There are clear indications

among yesterday that

Government has not ruled

out the possibility of the

price freeze as one of the

main options in the

inflation and

demands of astonishment

Mrs Williams, Secretary

for Prices and

Protection, said that

in the retail price

in the past three

years, the index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

However, the

index had

risen by 53.1 per cent.

the Hermes was not sunk in Quebec

Stanhope

correspondent

A 1,900-ton commando

latter, sailed out

of the harbour for

Friday despite the

fact that the

Quebec court of

appeal had ruled

in favour of the

local court.

The departure ended

the drama which

had been the

most colourful

in the history of

the British

presence in

Quebec.

The ship, which

was the

most illustrious

in the history of

the British

presence in

Quebec.

The ship, which</

HOME NEWS

Mr Scanlon delivers blow to government hopes of strengthening social contract

From Tim Jones
Labour Staff
Hastings

The Government's hopes of strengthening the social contract were dealt a blow yesterday when Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, made clear that he was opposed to any move to rewrite or to redefine it.

He told delegates attending the annual conference in Hastings: "I see no reason to change it. I see no reason to change it either by further discussion at the TUC or because the Chancellor or the Treasury now feel there should be further cuts in living standards."

His remarks are seen as a direct challenge to the proposals of Mr Jack Jones, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union for flat-rate pay increases, and could mean that Britain's two largest unions will clash at next week's TUC General Council meeting when future wages policy is discussed.

The AUEW has traditionally been opposed to any restraint on free collective wage bargaining, and Mr Scanlon's remarks almost certainly mean that his union will use its 1,400,000 block votes against any attempt to tighten the social contract at the TUC's annual conference in September.

Mr Scanlon defined his understanding of the contract as: "It was designed to maintain, but only maintain, living standards and it would do this by relating the percentage increase in the cost of

living to wage rates or earnings, such increases to apply on a yearly and only a yearly basis. Those who believe that living standards should be cut deny the very first rule of a free enterprise economy. The moment workers are unable to purchase back the goods they produce, that is the moment when unemployment begins to rise and, like a snowball downhill, gathers momentum until we are back in those dark days of the thirties which some of us understood, experienced and never want back again."

He said he found it remarkable that unions which had condemned the AUEW for its inactivity in questioning the social contract seemed to have been those that had obtained settlements well above its guidelines. He added: "What is even more remarkable is that we are still portrayed as the so-called militant determined to wreck the economy of the country, and somehow the others are portrayed as good moderates but as friends of the Government."

It became the CBI or anyone else to lecture workers on the need for wage restraint when such workers were constantly surrounded by and reminded of the conspicuous consumption pattern of the rich, he said.

The raid, which took place in the early hours of Monday morning, was carried out by the police and the security forces, which are already investigating recent claims about the loss of secret intelligence dossiers.

Shortly after 3 am yesterday, a patrol of about 10 men dressed in combat uniform drove up to the depot of "P" Company, the 5th Battalion, of

fronted by economic difficulties was to impose further burdens on working people.

He said he found it remarkable that unions which had condemned the AUEW for its inactivity in questioning the social contract seemed to have been those that had obtained settlements well above its guidelines. He added: "What is even more remarkable is that we are still portrayed as the so-called militant determined to wreck the economy of the country, and somehow the others are portrayed as good moderates but as friends of the Government."

It became the CBI or anyone else to lecture workers on the need for wage restraint when such workers were constantly surrounded by and reminded of the conspicuous consumption pattern of the rich, he said.

The raid, which took place in the early hours of Monday morning, was carried out by the police and the security forces, which are already investigating recent claims about the loss of secret intelligence dossiers.

Shortly after 3 am yesterday, a patrol of about 10 men dressed in combat uniform drove up to the depot of "P" Company, the 5th Battalion, of

fronted by economic difficulties was to impose further burdens on working people.

Bomb expert tells trial of hole in bar floor

The bomb blast at the Tavern in the Town public house in Birmingham blew a three-foot hole through a floor made of 10in reinforced concrete, Mr Percy Lidstone, a senior Home Office scientific officer at Woolwich, told the bomb trial which resumed at Lancaster today.

Mr Lidstone said he had 36 years' experience in the study of explosives. He estimated that 30lb of conventional blasting explosives was used.

He described materials recovered after six incidents in the Midlands where explosions occurred or were planned and said: "It demonstrates to me that all these incidents are connected in a varying degree."

John Walker, aged 40, Patricia Hill, aged 30, Robert Hunter, aged 22, and William Power, aged 22, charged with the murder of 21 people in Birmingham last November, were also charged with conspiracy to cause explosions. Mr Lidstone said they were also charged with conspiracy to cause explosions.

Dr Frank Skuse, scientific officer at the North-West Forensic Laboratory, said he took swabs of the hands of five of the accused men. Tests could reveal traces of explosive materials.

He obtained negative results from Mr McKinnon and Mr Hunter. Tests on Mr Power and Mr Hill produced some positive results.

He also obtained a positive result on one of three tests on Mr Walker.

The trial continues today.



Person in the stocks: The Rev John Fellow, director of appeals of the Central Council for the Disfranchised, who volunteered yesterday for their fair in St James's Square, Soho, London.

Nine killed, 25 inj in coach crash

From a Staff Reporter

Nine people died and 25 others were injured, some seriously, when a coach taking a party of old people from Brighton on a Scottish tour collided with a lorry on the A74 near Moffat, Dumfriesshire, yesterday.

It was believed that the articulated lorry had a tyre burst and crossed the grass reservation separating the carriageways, striking the coach head-on.

Both vehicles were wrecked. Passengers were trapped for more than an hour in the tangled wreckage before they could be rescued. Doctors and nurses from Dumfries infirmary carried out surgery inside the wrecked coach.

It is thought that six people were killed instantly and three died in hospital. The A74 was blocked solidly with traffic for six miles on either side of the accident, and the fleet of 24 ambulances had difficulty in reaching the injured.

The 34 miles of dual carriage-

way between the Carlisle and the M74 south of the notorious stretch day's crash follows serious coach accident project was started hard shoulder on by ways, but it was to upgrade the road standard.

The party of 34 left Brighton on the night of the crash. The tour was organised by Alpha Brighton. Their coach, a 1964 Volvo, was travelling northwards towards Moffat when the crash happened.

A police officer said very bad. Some of the injured were taken to the Moffat hospital. Mr William C. Ambroseman, said the crash was a tragedy. "The people were brave and there was

Drive home lessons of referendum, voters urg

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

When they go to the polls on June 26, the voters of Woolwich West, have a vital decision to make. They must decide whether to support the Labour Government or to support the Conservative Government.

Mr Geoffrey Howe, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, told a Conservative Party meeting in the constituency last night. He said the voters must drive home the lessons of the referendum result.

"Britain voted 10 days ago to reject the economic extremism of the Labour left," he said. "The country voted not for revolution but for realism. The country made plain its readiness to support a government that has the courage to introduce the severe economic policies that are necessary."

Mr Geoffrey said that the Prime Minister might still feel able, with a tiny overall majority, to pick and choose the votes in which he could rely in Parliament. "That is why he must now be deprived of that majority. Then, if only the minority parties can be persuaded to vote in the interests of the United Kingdom as a whole, we shall have some chance of blocking further

moves for public. People found it extraordinary, he said, that at a time of economic difficulty he was bringing further austerities under control.

In a reference to a special significance, Mr Howe said that he was concerned that a rail commuter traffic, referred to the fact that the district was a working class area, which was always in the forefront of the Government's mind.

When nominating yesterday there were debates in the field. Mr Peter Bottomley (Conservative), Mr Joe Stanbury (Labour), Mr Ronald Maitland (Liberal), Mr Frank H. (Conservative), Mr Reginald Simmonds (Conservative), and Mr Peter Bishop (Liberal).

Godber plea for early Stonehouse debate

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Joseph Godber, Conservative MP for Grantham and a former minister, yesterday wrote to Mr Short, Leader of the Commons, to urge an early debate on the case of Mr John Stonehouse. There seemed to be no adequate reason for delaying it, he said.

Mr Godber wrote: "Discussion of the charges which have been brought against Mr Stonehouse would, I am quite sure, not play any part in the discussion of his ability to perform his functions in the House and to carry out his responsibilities to his constituents which have, from first to last, motivated his conduct over this matter."

Whatever decision the House arrives at could not, in my view, have the remotest relevance to any subsequent court proceedings. Nor could they influence the course of justice in any way or another. Some might consider it premature, Mr Godber wrote, to exercise maximum consideration for an MP who had acted as Mr Stonehouse had; but he disagreed. MPs were given certain privileges to enable them to carry out their duties to their constituents, and they all had to ensure that such privileges were not abused.

Nothing could do more harm to the reputation of Parliament than if MPs appeared to be turning a blind eye to a man who had committed such a crime. It was a duty collectively and individually to protect their interests, and when, as in this case, they have made clear their dissatisfaction and a select committee of the House has appeared to endorse their view, then surely the least that we can do is to see that the matter is debated without undue delay.

Mr Godber said Mr Short postponed the debate primarily because he felt that the news that Mr Stonehouse had been admitted to a psychiatric ward changed the circumstances. "It now appears that you had been misled on this point, and thus this justification for postponement no longer exists," he said.

Full-scale army operation in Northern Ireland after huge haul of deadly weapons is stolen

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

A full scale army operation was still going on throughout Northern Ireland last night as soldiers searched for clues to the whereabouts of the biggest and most deadly haul of weapons since 1969.

The ease with which the unknown raiders were able to escape with more than 180 high-velocity rifles and Sterling submachine guns from an Ulster Defence Regiment armory in Co. Londonderry has greatly embarrassed the security forces, which are already investigating recent claims about the loss of secret intelligence dossiers.

The raid, which took place in the early hours of Monday morning, was carried out by the police and the security forces, which are already investigating recent claims about the loss of secret intelligence dossiers.

Shortly after 3 am yesterday, a patrol of about 10 men dressed in combat uniform drove up to the depot of "P" Company, the 5th Battalion, of

the UDR in the small town of Magherafelt.

A lone sentry on duty at the entrance was hit over the head and killed. The raiders, without any indications of a violent struggle, the raiders disarmed the other five UDR members on duty and tied them up with rope.

Then they broke open a specially reinforced cabinet containing the key to the well-stocked armory and transferred scores of weapons and an undisclosed quantity of ammunition into two UDR Land-Rovers. The vehicles were found abandoned and burnt out in a deserted spot five miles away.

The gang cut all telephone lines from the depot, and it was at least two hours before any of the sentries was able to free himself and get to the local police station to raise the alarm.

Altogether raiders got away with 148 self-loading rifles, 35 Sterling submachine guns, a heavy general purpose machine gun (capable of firing 300 rounds a minute), three 22 rifles, a pistol and an unknown

quantity of ammunition, believed to be thousands of rounds.

The seriousness of the raid is demonstrated by the fact that it involved machine guns and rifles stolen in 50 more than the Army has recovered throughout Northern Ireland during the whole of this year.

A top priority investigation into the circumstances surrounding the raid is being carried out by the Army's special investigation branch.

Apart from the obvious embarrassment caused by the lack of proper security, army officers are also concerned at the effect on the general situation that could be caused by such a large quantity of powerful weapons falling into the hands of extremists, whatever their religion.

In spite of intense military activity, involving the use of aircraft, numerous roadblocks, and the Army's intelligence network, the raid is being carried out by the end of the day whether the weapons are in the hands of "loyalists" or the Provisional IRA.

The incident has also further brought into question the role and future of the UDR, already recruited force, nine tenths of the membership of which is Protestant. It has been coming under growing criticism from Roman Catholic politicians.

Within hours of the raid, Mr Ivan Cooper, a leading member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, declared that it provided a clear indication of collusion between the UDR and a Protestant paramilitary organization. He called on the Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to stop ignoring "the obvious disloyalty" in the ranks of the UDR.

Since 1969, and further back in history, loyalist and republican have often used robberies as a way of trying to increase their own supplies of weapons. Before the IRA's border campaign in 1956, there were a large number of daring raids on army installations in both Northern Ireland and mainland Britain.

An alleged commander of the Ulster Defence Association in Britain was jailed for 10 years yesterday at Winchester Crown Court for conspiring to contravene firearms regulations.

Thomas Thompson, aged 43, of Langrove Street, Liverpool, was found guilty by a jury of eight men and four women on the ninth day of the trial.

He was found guilty of conspiring with John Gadd and others to contravene sections of the Firearms and Explosive Substances Act between January 1, 1973, and April 9, 1974, and conspiring to contravene the Firearms Act.

Council to offer 50 flats by ballot

By Our Local Government Correspondent

The borough of Islington has decided to offer 50 council flats a year by ballot to people not qualified for accommodation from the ordinary housing list.

Couples eligible for the ballot, to be drawn in July and next January, will have to be engaged or to have been married in the past three years. Engaged couples will be required to produce proof of marriage before the council hands over the key.

Other conditions are that one of each couple must be a life-long Islington resident, and both must be aged between 17 and 30. They must also prove they have a housing need.

Explaining the experimental scheme, Mrs Margaret Watson, chairman of Islington's housing committee, said they were concerned about the drift of young people out of the borough.

The shortage of inexpensive private accommodation was squeezing them out. "We felt we had to find a way to encourage them to stay here, but we had also to weigh their needs against those of other groups of people in desperate housing need."

Mrs Watson added that the council was reviewing its allocation policy and hoped by autumn to make more generous provision for young couples.

TV coverage of Ascot racing to be blacked out

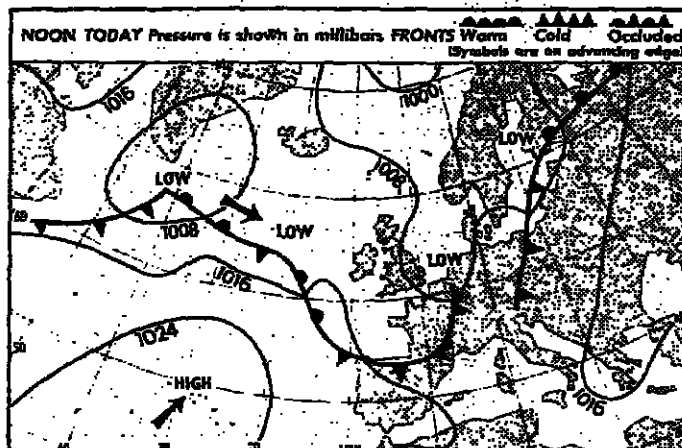
By a Staff Reporter

Television coverage of the Royal Ascot race meeting will be blacked out today and for the rest of the week because of an appeal to broadcasting technicians from the striking Newmarket stable lads, who are picketing the racecourse.

Mr Alan Jones, of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs, said they had agreed to support the stable lads and had ordered BBC out-

side broadcast via arocin, to stop coverage will also. Because of the involving stable lads, France, there renewed fears that the racecourse would be on the course. He has been no suggestion that their union such demonstration. Racing prosp.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 4.43 am
Sun sets: 9.20 pm
Moon rises: 12.53 am
Moon sets: 2.19 pm

Full Moon: June 23.
Light moon: 9.50 pm to 4.13 am.
High water: London Bridge, 8.18 am, 6.7m (22.1ft); 8.36 pm, 6.8m (22.5ft).
Low water: London Bridge, 1.26 am, 11.8m (38.6ft); 2.6 am, 5.3m (17.4ft); 5.4 pm, 5.1m (16.7ft); 12.37 pm, 6.4m (21.0ft); 12.37 pm, 6.7m (21.9ft).
Liverpool, 5.42 am, 8.4m (27.7ft); 6.24 pm, 6.1m (20.0ft).

A broad trough of low pressure covers the British Isles.
Area forecasts:
London, SE, central S England, East Anglia, E Midlands: Sunny spells, showers, locally heavy with hail and thunder; wind SW, light; max temp 15°C (59°F).
W Midlands, Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District: Sunny spells, scattered showers; wind NW, light or moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).
E, central N, NE England, Borders: Sunny spells, showers, locally heavy with hail and thunder; wind SW, light; max temp 15°C (59°F).
Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny spells, scattered showers; wind NW, light or moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).



Today
Sun rises: 4.43 am
Sun sets: 9.20 pm
Moon rises: 12.53 am
Moon sets: 2.19 pm

Full Moon: June 23.
Light moon: 9.50 pm to 4.13 am.
High water: London Bridge, 8.18 am, 6.7m (22.1ft); 8.36 pm, 6.8m (22.5ft).
Low water: London Bridge, 1.26 am, 11.8m (38.6ft); 2.6 am, 5.3m (17.4ft); 5.4 pm, 5.1m (16.7ft); 12.37 pm, 6.4m (21.0ft); 12.37 pm, 6.7m (21.9ft).
Liverpool, 5.42 am, 8.4m (27.7ft); 6.24 pm, 6.1m (20.0ft).

A broad trough of low pressure covers the British Isles.
Area forecasts:
London, SE, central S England, East Anglia, E Midlands: Sunny spells, showers, locally heavy with hail and thunder; wind SW, light; max temp 15°C (59°F).
W Midlands, Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District: Sunny spells, scattered showers; wind NW, light or moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).
E, central N, NE England, Borders: Sunny spells, showers, locally heavy with hail and thunder; wind SW, light; max temp 15°C (59°F).
Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny spells, scattered showers; wind NW, light or moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).

Sotheby's regular sales of

MODERN BRITISH DRAWINGS PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE 1880-1975

John Piper, C.H., Blenheim Palace, Indian ink, collage and Chinese white, signed, 15 1/2 x 11 1/2 inches, sold on 12th March, 1975 for £250

for information and advice telephone or write to Janet Green

Sotheby's

Sotheby & Co., 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA
Telephone: 01-493 9040 Telegrams: Abintito, London
Telex: London 24454

Crossman dispute prompts move by Mr Heffer

By Our Political Staff

The Attorney General's decision to seek an injunction to prevent the publication of the Crossman diaries has prompted Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton, to open a campaign against what he feels are the absurdities of "closed" government.

Mr Heffer, who was dismissed from his post as Minister of State for the Department of Industry by Mr Wilson for refusing to accept ministerial guidelines for the referendum period, is to ask the Attorney General in the Commons today what criteria are used by him in seeking an injunction against the publication of a book such as the Crossman diaries.

He also wants to know whether Mr Samuel Silkin has brought that would conflict with government policy, and that government processes should be more open.

'Tribune' group to discuss tactics after Wilson letter

By Penny Symon

The Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs will meet tomorrow to discuss tactics and the direction it should now take. The group is going through a period of re-evaluation over its decision to send a highly critical letter to the Prime Minister.

The letter accused him of accepting coalition policies and said the group was not satisfied that he had made his position clear. It was a direct challenge to the Prime Minister's policy of coalition with the Conservatives.

That was attacked by Mr Leslie Huchfield, Labour MP for Nuneaton, who issued a statement accusing the group of being a "left-wing fringe" and said it was in danger of losing its title "the loony left".

Last night about 30 Tribune members, including Mr Huchfield, discussed the matter. Mr Huchfield said later that he had been listened to and he had felt that he had made his point. He estimated that about a third of the members present were in support of him.

"I felt that the matter of the group's tactics should be raised, but there was no question of any personal attack on any member of the group," he said. "I made my statement on my behalf only and I was not speaking for anyone else, but it needed saying."

This stand was supported by Dr Maurice Miller, Labour MP for East Kilbride, who said afterwards that the allegations contained in the letter to Mr Wilson were premature and without any substantial foundation.

Correction

Mr William Fairley, who was awarded an MBE in the Birthday Honours on Saturday, was incorrectly described as deputy editor of the Press Association in our article on the subject.

Mr Fairley is deputy editor of the Press Association's Parliamentary Service.

Correction

Murder bid charge

Raymond Brown, aged 21, of Cromford Road, Hutton, was remanded in custody until Friday by Liverpool magistrates yesterday, charged with attempting to murder Mrs. Gertrude Dykins, aged 83, a widow.

British airways ANNOUNCE

Tuesday, June 17, 1975



We'll take
more care
of you

Los Angeles lands great non-stop service

FLYING WEST IN A BIG WAY

First class to German cities

By Announce Berlin Correspondent

FIRST CLASS travel between London and six key business centres in West Germany is offered this summer by British Airways.

This means that the British businessman benefits from the added space and comfort of first class travel when he flies from London to Cologne, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Munich or Stuttgart.

He'll be able to plan his day better too, thanks to improved morning flight timings to Frankfurt (0955), Düsseldorf (0915), and Hanover (1115). So apart from anything else, he can get out to the airport at a civilised hour.

Timetable

This is how the timetable from London will look.

Frankfurt—0955, 1310 (both daily) and 1700 (daily except Saturdays).

Munich—0925 and 1620 (both daily).

Stuttgart—1555 (daily).

Cologne—1605 (daily).

Düsseldorf—0915, 1735 (both daily) and 1930 (daily except Saturdays).

Hamburg—0935 (daily except Sunday) and 1720 (daily).

Hanover—1115 (daily).

Bremen—1610 (daily).

Berlin—1110 (daily non-stop), 1115 (daily via Hanover) and 1610 (daily via Bremen).

Berlin, Munich and Düsseldorf will also be served from provincial centres in the U.K.

For more details see your local travel agent

By Announce Reporter
AILY non-stop service from London to Los Angeles using the wide-bodied comfort of a DC 10 aircraft has just been introduced by British Airways.

The airline has leased the DC10 from Air New Zealand and specifically for the purpose. The aircraft will fly in New Zealand colours, but it will be operated by British Airways pilots, engineers and cabin crew on board.

Passengers flying on to New Zealand will be able to do the entire journey in one aircraft.

Air New Zealand crews will take over in Los Angeles for the second leg of the journey to Auckland.

Seating

The DC10 will leave London at 1610, arriving in Los Angeles at 1915. In the opposite direction, the aircraft departs Los Angeles at 1830, arriving in London at 1240 the following day.

Seating in the DC10 will be 24 first class places and 219 economy seats.

All the seats have a push-button lumbar support to give maximum comfort, and the eight-foot ceiling means that no one has to stoop.

Fares between London and Los Angeles will range from £180.30 for a winter advance purchase excursion (APEX) ticket to £633.80 first class.

Strong

British Airways sees the introduction of a non-stop over-the-Pole service from London to Los Angeles with the DC10 as a big breakthrough.

Britain has strong and growing ties with California, whose record of sustained economic growth has few parallels anywhere else in the world, and the airline anticipates a big demand for seats in both the business and holiday markets, as well as from people wishing to continue their journey onwards to New Zealand.

Trident is the fast way North

THE fastest way between Newcastle and London is British Airways' Trident Service.

There are up to five return flights every day, and the flight time is only 55 minutes. Another advantage for travellers is that Newcastle airport is only six miles from the city centre.

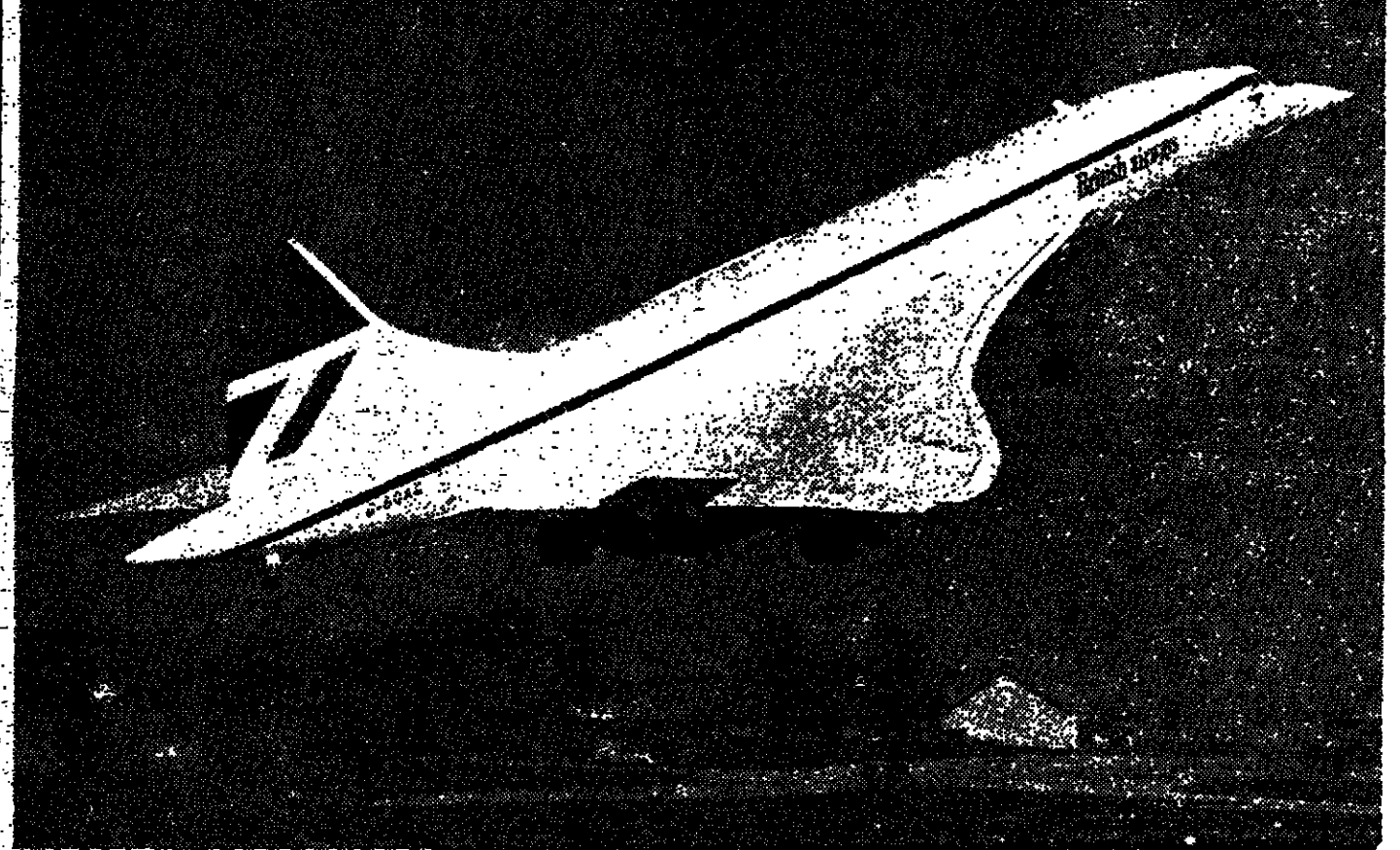
Ping-pong flights

BRITISH Airways was official carrier for many of the 70 teams taking part in the 33rd World Table Tennis Olympiad held in Calcutta. After the championships, the airline flew the Chinese, Hong Kong and Macao teams to Hong Kong and the Brazilian team to London.

Check-in speeds up

An experimental excess baggage system has been introduced on the London-Paris route to speed up passenger check-in. The scheme, introduced by British Airways in conjunction with Air France, means that passengers are charged a flat rate of £2 or 20 francs for each additional item of baggage over and above one piece checked into the aircraft hold and one small cabin bag. If the experiment is successful, it could be extended to other routes between the UK and France from November 1.

Flying East—in Concorde



Concorde 204, the fourth production aircraft in British Airways livery, during its maiden flight.

BRITISH AIRWAYS' first passenger service with Concorde will be to Bahrain, either later this year or early in 1976. Transatlantic flights will follow shortly afterwards, providing the necessary landing permission in New York is obtained.

It is now clear that British Airways and Air France will begin flying Concorde commercially on the same date, with the French airline flying to Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, via Dakar.

The choice of Bahrain for British Airways' first service reflects the growing importance of the oil rich Gulf.

Departures from London will be on Monday and Wednesday mornings, with the return flights on Tuesday and Thursday. Timings will be designed to give good connections to North America, Europe and other Gulf points.

Australia

Bahrain also forms the first part of the route that is planned for Concorde to Singapore and Melbourne. This could link the UK and Australia in under 14

Concorde Special Report

hours and will present a new dimension in commercial aviation.

Already various Concorde flights for route development purposes will begin, and by the time Concorde starts regular scheduled flights it will be the most tested and proven aircraft ever to enter passenger service.

CARTOON BY ROSS



Guide for business travellers

TWO booklets which should prove invaluable to the business traveller are to be published shortly by British Airways.

"Business Travel — Services and Facilities" and "Business Travel — Fares and Pricing" will provide a fully-costed reference to special group packages for conventions, study tours, trade fairs, incentives and other fares.

More than 150 special group business fares and packages are listed in the two publications.

Mr Eric Thomas, British Airways' Business Travel Manager, said that the booklets would add a new dimension to the airline's service to customers, providing "off the shelf" travel for the first time.

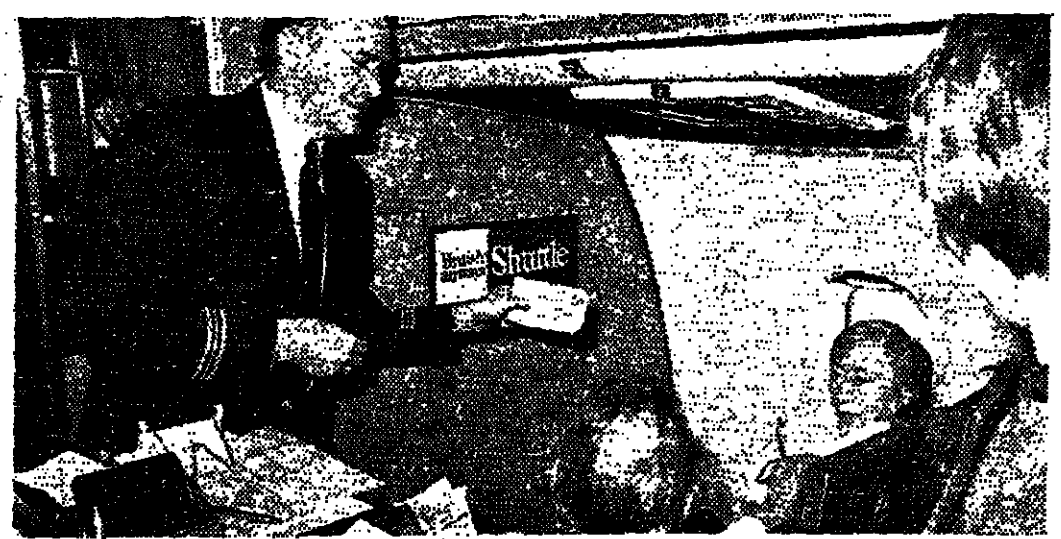
The Jersey jet set

JET services on routes between Jersey, Manchester and Birmingham have been introduced for the first time by British Airways.

The new weekend services by BAC 1-11 jets provide two return services from Birmingham and one from Manchester on Saturdays and on Sundays. And these new jet services are in addition to the daily Viscount operations.

Sovereign is back in Cyprus

SOVEREIGN holidays to Cyprus started again on June 1. Holidaymakers can stay at hotels in the Limassol area and in Paphos.



Shuttle makes everything easy — even the paying!

Pay as you please on Shuttle

IN SPITE of all the problems the London-Glasgow Shuttle has got off to a good start. Now about 2,500 people on average are using the service each day. And now there's even more good news, passengers have no less than three ways to pay.

They can get their tickets beforehand at their travel agents, from the Shuttle desk at the airport just before they board, or, if they're really in a rush, they can pay on the plane. Whichever way they choose, they're guaranteed a seat. Shuttle flies

hourly every weekday between 0800 and noon, and from 1400 till 2000. Weekends, it's roughly a two-hourly service between 0800 and 2000, but check with your Travel Agent for details. Shuttle. Just turn up and take off. It's as simple as that.

Flights to Cairo boosted

SERVICES to Cairo and Dhahran are being stepped up by British Airways from three to four a week to strengthen still further its coverage to the Middle East.

The airline is already offering the most comprehensive network of services to the area, with daily flights to Beirut, Teheran and Bahrain.

Beirut is served on a daily non-stop basis, with flights leaving Heathrow at 1115.

To Bahrain, it's nine flights a week, and the schedule includes four non-stop Boeing 747 flights.

Teheran's daily service includes two non-stop 747s. No flight has more than one stop en route.

British Airways also flies to eight other points in the Middle East. They are Damascus, Baghdad, Kuwait (with non-stop VC 10s), Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Muscat and Jeddah.

More and more businessmen are asking for direct flights to the Middle East these days. British Airways is there to supply the demand.

We fly the flag direct to Jo'burg every evening.

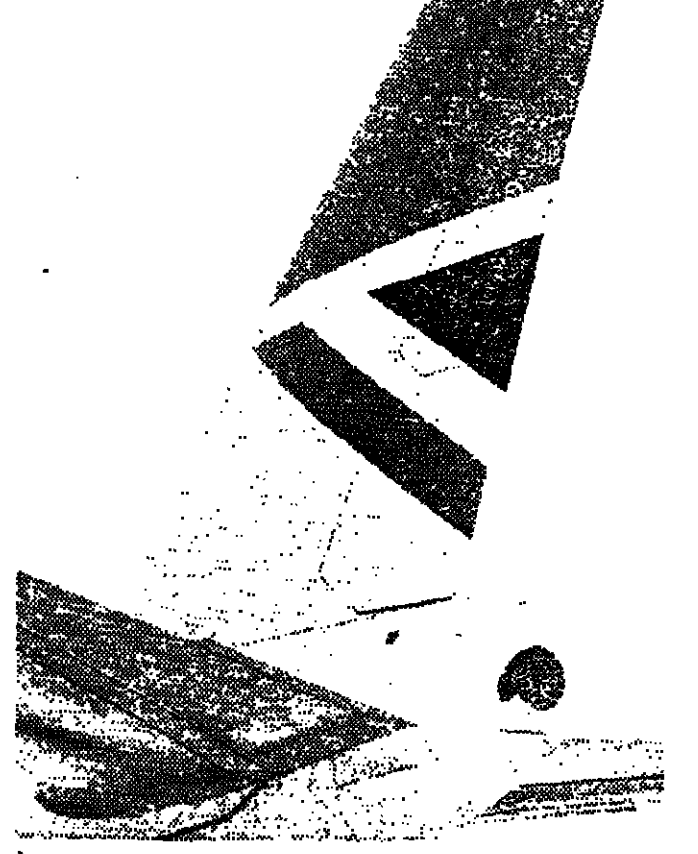
747s at either 2000 or 2145 depending on which day you fly.

With our special brand of care and attention on all of them.

Details from your Travel Agent or British Airways shop.

British airways

We'll take more care of you.



led, 25
crash

me lesson
um, voters

facts -
hat's
what
people
want'

recordings



ary Marking: 'We have a
mendous amount of news'

HAT business people want in advertising is information: they want facts. That is the principal reason behind "Announce", a new style in airline advertising.

erry Marking, Managing Director of British Airways, said we wanted to give facts which could help to make travel easier for our passengers.

Most people," he said, "even those who seldom fly, are genuinely interested in aircraft and air travel. If an airline advertisement gives them facts that really are important and not just advertiser's purple prose, they are more likely to read it and find it helpful."

British Airways is the world's largest and, I hope, best international airline, and we aim to give far more travel information to the public than was possible through conventional advertising.

Style

"By adopting a newspaper style," he continued, "we have given space to news that would never appear in normal advertising."

"We have a tremendous amount of news — new aircraft types, new destinations, changes in schedules, special fares and so on. There's probably not another advertiser in the country who could do this."

"I believe that travellers — in particular regular business passengers — will appreciate this new information service."

ME NEWS

Evolution
The pressed
Labour in
tland

Malcolm Paul
The Scottish Council of the Party will object to any slowing down of the Government's programme to press for delay or amendment of the Scotland devolution proposals, a member of the Scottish described the which were circulated, as a shabby likely ever to reach the

er much some Scottish members may privately be creation of a Scottish, they are deeply con- about the loss to party if the national execu- Government now reverse on their pro- Scottish devolution, mbers said. "It would from the Scottish of the party originally the assembly plan and a brought into line by lonal executive. If the ant now says 'no', to it will make the party tustant to say that would be playing into the hands of the nationalists in they have been rejec- the referendum."

Scottish "yes" at the referendum may have en- the party in London that use appeals for- ism was warning. That is interpretation which Labour MPs in Scotland ached. The wish among ity of Scots for an elec- sibly which could deal. tically, the Scottish re- maining strong and its upon as a separate issue question of Britain's ship of the EEC. Scottish Council of the Party is to review its y proposals to take of the referendum vote, s not expected that the will result in any major. The policy will remain ich supports the assen- legislative power, but control over the coun- ade and industry, while open opposition to psals for devolution re- cented on Mr. Tam Dal- chairman of the Par- y, Labour Party and West Lothian. He has the focus on the cost- ing up a Scottish ly.

forcement difficulties' on
ortion law changes

ff Reporter
Home Office civil made it clear yester- he select committee of adding the Abortion tent Bill of Mr. James about MP for Glasgow, that it would be very to enforce laws prob- foreign women from abortions. The committee was told that the proposals, every n the country going for ortion would have to pro- birth certificate, the violence to the doctor. id. If he was not satis- would have to carry out quires which would rder delays. method would cause

est vigil by
ten
sex Bill

ff Reporter
il, was held outside n Office in London y by half a dozen men- the Women's Liberation nt as part of their cam- nist the Sex Discrimi- n. intend to stand there tomorrow when the Bill inal reading. They said women as dependants ndes areas of discrimi- h as taxation, pensions al security. George Reid, Scottish ist MP for Strathclyde, 1 Clackmannan, agreed y to meet the demon- to discuss the amen- the Bill, which he will now.

asso's Volland Suite of
hings fetches £84,210

dine Norman
on Correspondent
on Klipspringer in Bern, at the weekend their arathon sale of modern The sale included 1,234- achieved a top price of Swiss francs (estimate of £84,210, for Picasso's Suite. The series of 100 executed between 1930 has been known to top 000 mark at auction, but prices in general proved weak. "Mitotomousche", an of the most important achievements of the century and is known in impressions, sold 265,000 (estimate 300,000). or Some of the other im- picasso prints appear not, sold. hand, there were high prices for the work. Redon and Toulous- Munch's colour woodcut "Melancholie" (estimate 80,000). A and an example of his. "Mitotomousche" fetched watercolour and crayon 12,000 francs (estimate £17,240).

WEST EUROPE

All-night crisis talks
in Lisbon as threat
of violence worsens

From Jose Shercliff
Lisbon, June 16
President Costa Gomes of Portugal arrived home today from Romania to face a growing crisis. A theft of arms from an important military base and a nationwide manhunt for the culprits has accentuated the unrest in Portugal, and prolonged meetings of the Revolutionary Council have been taking place since last Friday. The latest ended at 5 am today. No official statements have been made about the matters under discussion.

The arms were stolen from the Santa Margarida military instruction camp 95 miles north-east of Lisbon. On Sunday morning five men, two of whom in military uniforms, entered the outbuilding where sentries stack their arms after duty and got away with some 25 automatic rifles and six Tommy guns, according to the first check. They were armed on arrival and overcame the guard on duty.

Within 20 minutes the internal security force, Copcon, had surrounded a large "motor stop" on all roads in the area, which was later enlarged to take in the whole country. All cars were stopped and searched, causing chaos in the heavy Sunday holiday traffic. An abortive attempt to attack the television station in Lisbon was officially reported today. Military guards stated that during the night a car entered the precincts of the station and refused to stop when ordered. One man in it was armed with a revolver according to the guards, who fired on the car but missed. The car got away. It was touch and go today whether the newspaper Republic would reopen after all. The authorities had granted permission last week, but Copcon postponed the reopening of the sealed offices until today, saying they had not enough men to keep the peace if there were clashes between the management side and the communist-led printers who had closed down the newspaper a month ago.

Today the seals were removed but the management was reluctant to take over Dr. Rego, the editor, told The Times this evening that Copcon had removed the seals contrary to the stipulations of the administration. These were that no workers should be allowed to enter against the management's wishes and that all changes of the press law should be fully observed. The newspaper administration was taking up the matter with the authorities.

The editorial staff were understood to be ready to reoccupy the building unopposed from possible retaliation from their opponents. Trades unions all over the country have expressed solidarity with the printers. Lisbon, June 16.—A meeting here attended by about 140 members of communist-control-

led union representing workers in the newspaper business asked the Government today to discard its new press law immediately and replace it with an old law that would prevent Republic, a Socialist-oriented newspaper, from resuming publication.

The unions also denounced the country's two other newspapers still free of communist editorial control and demanded that the Government should take firm measures against the Western foreign press—particularly the foreign news agencies, Reuters and Agence France-Press.

Politicians said that the Revolutionary Council had been discussing possible outlawing of the political parties. The future of democracy, the coalition Government and the Constituent Assembly were all hanging in the balance, they added.

In the North, the newspapers said gunfights have broken out between conservative and left-wing elements in a village north of Oporto and near military assistance has been requested. They said soldiers first moved into the village on Saturday after the leading left-wing politician in the district had fired his way out of a mob armed with shotguns, whips, clubs and hoes.

In Louisa, near Lisbon, pro-Catholic workers regained control of a Communist radio station occupied by communist workers, but were forced to withdraw from the building by the intervention of Copcon-UPD.

Sebastian D. Mario Soares, the Portuguese Socialist leader, said here today that he is categorically opposed to the creation of one single political party in his homeland. In an interview with the West German news agency DPA, he said that "the political interpretation" of the Armed-Forces Movement was based on a multi-party democracy and was, therefore, incompatible with one single party—UPD. Sucharest: President Costa Gomes and President Ceausescu of Romania today signed a joint trade agreement, a scientific and technological co-operation agreement and a draft economic and technical co-operation agreement.

A joint communiqué said they had welcomed détente and hoped that European security cooperation conference would be held as soon as possible at the highest level. But there was no reference to a call by Mr. Ceausescu, made in earlier speeches, for the simultaneous abolition of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Sebastião: Nato expects Portugal to forge closer links with communist East European countries after signing the friendship and cooperation treaty with Romania. It is to be said, then better with Romania and not some of the other states of Eastern Europe", said one diplomat.

Madrid's ambassador in London, a strong contender for political leadership, is to go home because of an accelerating sense of change

The hour of reform in Spain is 'here and now'

By David Spazier
Diplomatic Correspondent

One of the strongest contenders for the political leadership of Spain in the new era that the country is now clearly expecting is his excellency the Spanish Ambassador to the Court of St. James's.

It would normally be quite difficult to campaign for the launching of a new political system while running an important embassy, but Don Manuel Fraga Iribarne is up to it. "My position is a rather special one," he agrees. "Hardly a day goes by without some article in the Spanish press about the political situation which involves my own programme for reform."

In fact, the sense of change in Spain is accelerating so rapidly that the ambassador has decided to return to Madrid at the end of the summer to stay in touch with events. Señor Fraga is a rare combination, a man who seeks and understands power in a practical way and is at the same time a professor of constitutional law. If meeting him, people are more impressed by his sense of power than his academic bent, it is because his physical presence is a commanding one. Of the groups now working in Spain to promote his ideas, a research body in Madrid and a club in Barcelona, he comments: "Some people are in a position to act as leaders, some are in a position to do the thinking."

Yet his devotion to academic study, as the list of publications shows, is far from dilettante. It includes a treatise of the British constitution, 440 pages long, which has become a standard text in Spain, and a wide range of political and historical studies. "I have always been a good student," the ambassador admits with a serious smile. "I felt I owed it to my mother who gave me the chance to study as a boy."

The fact that his mother, from whom he takes the name Iribarne, is by birth a French Basque is not without importance today, in giving him some personal understanding of regional differences within Spain.

The eldest of a family of 12 living in poor but not straitened circumstances in Villalba, a village in north-west Spain, Señor Fraga had a dazzling rise through the local school, to the university of Santiago de Compostela and on to Madrid. He was drawn to constitutional law because, at that time, it seemed the preeminent study to follow, but his interest soon widened to embrace history. There have been 14 constitutions in Spain since 1812, but they cannot be understood except in an historical context. A period as legal adviser to the Cortes was followed by a chair in political law at the University of Valencia, thence five years later to the chair of political science in Madrid. He gained first place in the examination for the diplomatic service back in 1946, but his first post in the service was his appointment to London in October, 1973. His main political experience came as Minister of Information and Tourism for seven years from 1962. This is

another Basque priest was officially listed as being under arrest. The sources identified him as Father Javier Olabe of Mungia, in Vizcaya, one of the two provinces in which police were given unusual powers last April 25. The priest was seized by police in Bermeo on May 22. Several days later, he was transferred to the police barracks in the ancient Basque capital of Guernica, and finally taken to the La Salve police station in Bilbao.

From there he was sent last Saturday to the Basauri prison in Bilbao. Another priest, Father Jesus Zalvidea, was released in Bilbao on Saturday after spending five days in police custody, during investigation to discover whether hunting weapons found at his home—in a search without a warrant—were duly licensed. Basque underground sources alleged that political police held two 10-year-old children for three hours in San Sebastian last Tuesday when they were found playing with illegal letters in a public park.



Don Manuel Fraga Iribarne: position 'rather special'.

A key post in the Spanish government and Señor Fraga handled it with success and style. He also earned a reputation as a man of principle, his best known measure being the introduction of the press law abolishing censorship in Spain. His career then took another turn when he entered business and became managing director of a brewery, while keeping on his lecturing at Madrid. Last February, under the new law of political association, Señor Fraga submitted proposals to the authorities for political reforms. Based on universal suffrage and freedom for trade unions, under the monarchy of Don Juan Carlos, these reforms read in draft like a liberal exemplar for a modern

state. They include the separation of church and state—"friendly, but final".

His programme was not hastily conceived, however, but is the result of an "adivion", a long washing over and study by a considerable number of people among the professional classes—the working class has yet to be brought in for its contribution. He says he is as opposed to the diatribes of the right as to the "adventures" of a class sweep.

The proposals were too radical for the present establishment, however. The mandarins in Madrid felt that it was too soon, it went too far, it was better to proceed by hints and statements of intention in preparing such a political association. "There is no time left for evolution," Señor Fraga comments sharply. "The hour of reform is here and now." It is this sense of urgency that has persuaded him to return to Madrid this year. Events are moving, he feels, and he must be present.

Some observers feel that Señor Fraga has certain advantages in the new leadership emerging in Spain. His simple origins give him a understanding of people, and a common touch which is rare among Spanish politicians. His academic accomplishments give him a standing among intellectuals which few could equal. He has been accused of arrogance, he is a man impatient of slower minds, sometimes intemperate and rough in his approach, and no doubt he has his enemies. But he is ready.

Policeman 'obliged' to fire shot
that killed Basque, Madrid says

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, June 16

A plainclothes policeman shot a young Basque at Mungia, near Bilbao, according to reports published in Madrid today. The semi-official news agency, Cifra, said the shooting occurred early on Sunday morning, when several people tried to enter a bar against the wishes of the owner.

Several men attacked one Civil Guard in plain clothes outside the bar and another policeman in plain clothes was obliged to fire the shot which mortally wounded Señor Alfredo San Sebastián Zaldivar. Basque sources gave a different version. They contended that Señor San Sebastián Zaldivar was inside the bar when three plainclothes policemen came to the door, and he went outside to speak to them. He was then shot.

The sources said that his body was left lying in the street for at least one hour and a half. The victim, in his twenties, was married and the father of a young son. In Madrid, a political court

handed down sentences of from two to four years on four Basques, including a young woman, convicted of illegal association. The findings of the Public Order Court were published today.

They found that the woman, Señora Julia Maria Garmendia, joined the outlawed Basque separatist organization ETA in 1973 and subsequently recruited the other three defendants. Also in Madrid, about 300 people reportedly attended an open air requiem Mass on the outskirts of the capital on Sunday to pray for an 18-year-old Basque student who was shot dead last month by the Civil Guard in the northern town of Ondarroa. In Bilbao, a military court acted on a petition from several lawyers and opened an inquiry into the circumstances of the student's death.

From Pamplona, in the northern province of Navarra, came a report of the arrest of two more Roman Catholic priests, for failure to pay fines imposed on them without trial for political offences. Ecclesiastical sources disclosed that

Punters to
get back
stake money

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, June 16

The Tiercé, France's main gambling attraction, today began refunding 93m francs (over 93m) staked by millions of punters, who were deprived of yesterday's horse racing at Chantilly by demonstrating stable lads.

There was no racing today at Chantilly, nor will there be tomorrow at St Cloud. But there will be a Tiercé on Thursday at the Vincennes races. M. Hubert d'Aillères, president of the trainers' association, asserted that to grant the lads that wage increase they are demanding in a new contract due to start on July 1, would risk putting Chantilly out of business. M. Serge Lerousseau, leader of the lads' trade union, said on the radio today that the demonstrations would go on until the trainers agreed to negotiate. He claimed he was dismissed on the spot this morning by his employer, along with other alleged "ringleaders". Paris flat-racing suspended.

Woman Minister in clash
with M Chirac

From Richard Wigg
Paris, June 16

Mme Françoise Giroud, the French State Secretary for Female Affairs, was in trouble today for heated remarks she made at a weekend party conference, which most people here took as a public rebuff to M. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister.

She issued a statement today, saying she had intended no personal criticism of M Chirac when she spoke on behalf of those who had voted, as she did, for M. Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate at last year's presidential election. She added: "As a member of the Government it would be wrong for me to voice criticisms of the Prime Minister, no matter what the subject."

While the Elysée refused to comment, and indicated that Mme Giroud would be attending tomorrow's Cabinet meeting, M Chirac, back in Paris from his weekend triumph at the Gaullist party annual conference in Nice, commented that Mme Giroud had "missed yet another opportunity to have kept silent". However he was careful to add that what she had done was incomparably less serious than the public disagreement over Government policy which lost M. Jean Jacques Servan Schreiber his post as Minister of Reform in June last year after only a few days in office.

Mme Giroud, who was given the surprise post of Female Affairs by President Giscard d'Estaing after his election, was formerly a senior editor of M. Servan Schreiber's weekly L'Express. They are both members of the Riformateurs movement which rallied to the president and now forms one of the three parties of his parliamentary majority. Mme Giroud made her remarks in a heated and indignant tone at a Paris weekend conference of seven Centrist political formations, including the Riformateurs, who agreed to constitute a loose confederation in order to strengthen their influence.

Mme Giroud's remarks were inevitably damaging for her, but they do express the open something of the latent tensions between the Centrists and the Gaullist party, and its leader Mr Chirac. The remark by the Prime Minister, to which Mme Giroud took particular offence, came in last week's Le Havre by-election campaign, when Mr Chirac declared that "France, by not electing M. Mitterrand as President has escaped one of the biggest dramas of her history."

RAF aircraft
collide
over Jutland

Beth, June 16.—Two RAF Buccaneers jets collided in mid-air near the Danish Air Force base at Karup, on the Jutland coast today, an RAF spokesman said. The Buccaneers were taking part in exercises with the Danish Air Force. One of the strike aircraft crashed into the North Sea after both crewmen ejected and parachuted to safety. They were picked up by a Danish search helicopter. The other aircraft sustained limited damage and landed at Karup. The spokesman, at Nato's second annual air force headquarters near Munchen, Gladbach, north-west of here, said the identities of the crews involved were being withheld until next of kin had been informed. Reuters.

State visit to US
by President
of W Germany

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, June 16

President Schöel of West Germany arrived here for a state visit today, the first by a German head of state for 17 years. He was received by President Ford with full military honours on the White House lawn, and later the two leaders began talks. American officials said that because of Herr Schöel's vigorous political interests his visit would have more than the customary ceremonial flavour. He and President Ford are expected to continue the discussions begun at the Nato summit on wider transatlantic policy cooperation. It is expected that Herr Schöel will speak on this in an address tomorrow to a joint session of Congress.



Last year
Peking & Tokyo.



This year, New York.

New Yorkers will see the 'Homa', ancient Persia's legendary bird, five times weekly on the tailplanes of Iran Air's all-Boeing fleet. Our 'Homa' network now embraces places as far apart as New York, London, Tehran, Peking and Tokyo. Ultra modern Boeing comfort and sky high standards of passenger care are helping to make Iran Air one of the fastest growing names in the airline world. Your travel agent has our latest schedules, or contact Iran Air at 73 Piccadilly, London W1. Tel: 01-491 3656 or 17/25 Sloane St, SW1. Tel: 01-235 8127/28.

New York, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Vienna, Geneva, Zurich, Rome, Moscow, Athens, Istanbul, Tehran, Abadan, Baghdad, Kuwait, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Dubai, Dhaka, Bombay, Karachi, Colombo, Peking, Tokyo. Also sales offices in Beirut, Milan, Hamburg, Los Angeles and Houston.



SPORT

Cricket

Murray and Turner earn chief honours over the first week

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

For Sri Lanka, East Africa, India and Pakistan the World Cup is over. As the golfers say, they failed to "make the cut", the first two because they were overpowered, and Pakistan because of being unlucky enough to play in the same group as Australia and West Indies. But for their last wicket partnership between Murray and Roberts, which saved West Indies against Pakistan at Edgbaston, Pakistan and Australia will play tomorrow. India will play West Indies on Saturday.

Whether Asif Iqbal would have played against West Indies rather than going into hospital for a haemorrhoid operation, had he not had words with Mr Kardar, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, over Pakistan's tactics during their defeat by Australia at Headingley, in the opening round of matches, we shall never know. Would Gavaskar have batted as he did against England at Lord's had he not been told by the Indian captain to do so? That is another of those mysteries which are part and parcel of cricket in India. In the end India were close to beating New Zealand that hit for a couple of Indian long hops in their match on Saturday, and a return from Zaheer, fielding at short leg at Edgbaston last Wednesday, which would have run out Murray and Roberts, would have made the semi-finalists would be Australia, England, India and Pakistan. The final will be played on Sunday.

West Indies were more out of their depth than Sri Lanka, as was only to be expected. They were playing each other in a three-day game at Taunton, a Test match in itself. East Africa came here to learn. Sri Lanka to make a case for their acceptance as full members of the International Cricket Conference, which would mean their ability to play official Test matches. What Sri Lanka most needs to attain to that class is more international experience, and in that they are hindered at the moment by crippling currency problems. On future tours of Sri Lanka, whoever makes them, it would be best to be able for a full Test match to be played.

In this respect it may be worth tracing Indian progress towards Test status. Of the MCC tour in 1926-27 Wisden said: "For many years past the standard of cricket in India has been steadily improving, and it was quite obvious from the form shown by the team that they were not far distant from being able to send a team to England capable of extending all the way to the Cape." Well, in 1932 a repre-

sentative Indian side did come to England to play their first full Test match. Captained by the Maharajah of Peshawar they "acquired themselves on the whole, if not with marked distinction, at any rate with great credit." In 1933-34 Douglas Jardine took the first "really powerful" MCC team to India, where they played three Test matches.

India, of course, had a great advantage in size over Ceylon (this was well before the days of partition) and they had some fine European cricketers living and working there then, to show them the way. They had a more generous game to learn, too, than the present one. But it won't be long, I hope, before Sri Lanka get their first Test match.

As sponsors of this first world cup the Prudential company have expressed their delight with the way things have gone. So far 126,000 people have watched the games and paid £90,000 to see them. The final to suit them best would be England against West Indies, and for England's benefit the final will be played at Lord's.

Since the opening day against Pakistan, Thomson has had less than 100 runs in the five matches. He has been out of the field for a short distance. Since the opening day against Pakistan, Thomson has had less than 100 runs in the five matches. He has been out of the field for a short distance. Since the opening day against Pakistan, Thomson has had less than 100 runs in the five matches. He has been out of the field for a short distance.



Spencer appeals successfully for a leg before decision against Johnson, the Kent opening batsman, at Maidstone yesterday.

Shepherd accepts an invitation

By Peter Marlow
MAIDSTONE: Sussex, with one second innings wicket in hand, need 16 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Kent nearly had to settle for a five-day week at Maidstone this summer, and there were several reasons for that. First, though Kent were better with an injury, problems as Sussex, they were still too good. Shepherd, who had been at the centre of Kent's success in the last season, was injured. Kent were better with an injury, problems as Sussex, they were still too good. Shepherd, who had been at the centre of Kent's success in the last season, was injured.

In the last passage on Saturday Kent had lost Luckhurst and Cowdrey, while taking their score to 250. Kent were better with an injury, problems as Sussex, they were still too good. Shepherd, who had been at the centre of Kent's success in the last season, was injured.

By the time Sussex had separated Nichols and Shepherd 122 runs had been added in 40 overs and, with Kent leading by 109 runs, these two had probably done enough and more. Nichols made 68 and Shepherd 52. When Shepherd fell to Graves' catch at the mid-on with the score 305, it was Sussex's turn again, and Barclay's off-breaks and a straight ball from Spencer did the rest.

Greenidge awaits fitness decision

Gordon Greenidge, the West Indian opening batsman, is doubtful for the first Test against New Zealand at the Oval tomorrow. He had a recurrence of back strain during the match against Australia on Saturday, but took part in not practice at the Oval yesterday.

Clyde Walcott, the West Indian middle-order batsman, would try out his back again today in the Oval nets and a decision on his fitness would be made during the evening.

Unbeaten 175 from Boycott dominates at Scarborough

Middlesex left off 130 runs ahead of Yorkshire at Scarborough yesterday with seven wickets standing. Yorkshire put together 223 for five after Middlesex had finished at 231 for seven and Boycott's unbeaten 175 over-shadowed all else. Lumb helped him to put on 146 for the first wicket in 70 overs.

Rain had reduced play by 125 minutes, but also reduced the lively pitch on which 14 wickets fell for 166 on the day. The only batsmen to succeed were two South Africans, who were out for 114 and 118 while Lumb was unluckily run out for 86 struck 11 boundaries. Leadbeater helped Boycott to add 80 for the second wicket in 17 overs.

When Middlesex batted again, Boucher and Brearley went cheaply but Smith and Featherstone (34 not out) added 81 for the third wicket. Smith (48) fell as 100 just before the close when Middlesex were 107 for three.

Johnnie Burton, June 16.—A tour of South Africa by an Australian cricket team is being negotiated in London by officials from the two countries, it was confirmed here today.

A graceful reminder from Nicholls

By Alan Gibson
Bristol: Gloucestershire (18) pish beat Gloucestershire (5) by an innings and 56 runs.

Because of a change of plan by his Sage cricket correspondent, I had to abandon my intended trip to Northampton, and suffer the inconvenience of travelling a full mile and a half to the familiar pastures of Bathampton. There I at once met my old friend, Arthur Russell, the Dean of Gloucester sports reporters, who informed me that the captain had been appointed, a captain had been appointed, a captain had been appointed.

signify, and it was not for nothing that Hampshire were at the top of it and Gloucestershire at the bottom. The reserve power tells, as in many championships, never had to abandon my intended trip to Northampton, and suffer the inconvenience of travelling a full mile and a half to the familiar pastures of Bathampton.

Cardiff

Roupe hit his first century of the season as Surrey took a firm grip on their game with Glamorgan, who finished 70 runs on with three wickets left.

Cambridge v MCC

CAMBRIDGE: Cambridge University first innings, 214 for 10. MCC first innings, 112 for 10.

Yorkshire v Middlesex

AT SCARBOROUGH
MIDDLESEX: first innings, 151 for 10. YORKSHIRE: first innings, 147 for 10.

Northants v Derby

AT NORTHAMPTON
DERBYSHIRE: first innings, 214 for 10. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: first innings, 147 for 10.

Glamorgan v Surrey

AT EXETER
GLAMORGAN: first innings, 200 for 10. SURREY: first innings, 147 for 10.

The Times Special Reports.

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter.

Today's cricket

CARLISLE: Glamorgan v Surrey (11.0 to 3.0 p.m.)
MAIDSTONE: Kent v Sussex (11.15 to 3.0 p.m.)

Other matches

CAMBRIDGE: Cambridge v University (11.0 to 3.0 p.m.)
HARROGATE: Yorkshire v Glamorgan (11.0 to 3.0 p.m.)

Second day's cricket

CARLISLE: Glamorgan v Surrey (3.15 to 6.0 p.m.)
MAIDSTONE: Kent v Sussex (3.15 to 6.0 p.m.)

Other matches

CAMBRIDGE: Cambridge v University (3.15 to 6.0 p.m.)
HARROGATE: Yorkshire v Glamorgan (3.15 to 6.0 p.m.)

Tennis

Rosewall seeded to endure all the Wimbledon frustration again

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Martina Navratilova, 18, a powerful Czechoslovak whose weight is reported to hover around 117 lb, has been seeded to play the holder, Chris Evert, in the women's singles final of the Wimbledon championships, which begin next Monday. Miss Navratilova was beaten in the first round last season but won two matches earlier in her first challenge for the title. If she justifies her seeding she will emulate the performance of her compatriot, Vera Sukova, who was runner-up to Evert in 1972.

obviously with an eye to grass court performances. The men's seedings may surprise those who have not been nourished by the results from the host of tournaments already played this year. Jimmy Connors, the United States champion, was the obvious top seed. Ken Rosewall was runner-up to Connors at Wimbledon and Forest Hills and is seeded to face Evert in the first round. It is extraordinary that a man of 40 should be seeded second. But Rosewall is always extraordinary.

At this stage it is in to forecast how the seeds will be linked in the later rounds. Places have been reserved for the seeds, but only the ones which place them in the most favourable positions. The rest must wait until it is in to find out exactly what the seeds will do. The men's doubles seedings are also interesting. The top pair is the American duo of Jimmy Connors and John McManis. They are seeded to play the British pair of John Lloyd and Peter McNamara in the first round. The American pair of Stan Smith and John McManis are seeded to play the British pair of John Lloyd and Peter McNamara in the first round.

The left-handed Miss Navratilova is a generalist of her form on grass courts because she has seldom played on this surface. Her service, volley and smash suggests that she may do well. But her volleying can be insecure under pressure and although she is a fine athlete she may be too heavy to move as well as she will need to in the later rounds.

Miss Navratilova is a naturalist and having a remarkably successful year. She was runner-up for the Australian, Italian, French and Virginia Slims championships (the last of these finals against the Australian, in which the Czechoslovak was beaten by Evonne Goolagong. Miss Evert is still improving and obviously had to be top seed, though like Miss Navratilova she is none too sure of herself on grass.

Miss Evert is still improving and obviously had to be top seed, though like Miss Navratilova she is none too sure of herself on grass. The women's field, at least at the top, that Billie Jean King, Miss Navratilova and Margaret Court, three players who preceded Miss Evert, as champion, are seeded third to fifth respectively, and that last year's runner-up, Olga Morozova, is seeded only seventh. But Mrs King and Mrs Court are both in their 30s and, for one reason or another, have played only a few matches this year. The seeding list is completed by Virginia Wade at six and three other women from Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United States, USSR, Yugoslavia, and Zimbabwe.

Miss Navratilova is a naturalist and having a remarkably successful year. She was runner-up for the Australian, Italian, French and Virginia Slims championships (the last of these finals against the Australian, in which the Czechoslovak was beaten by Evonne Goolagong. Miss Evert is still improving and obviously had to be top seed, though like Miss Navratilova she is none too sure of herself on grass.

Miss Evert is still improving and obviously had to be top seed, though like Miss Navratilova she is none too sure of herself on grass. The women's field, at least at the top, that Billie Jean King, Miss Navratilova and Margaret Court, three players who preceded Miss Evert, as champion, are seeded third to fifth respectively, and that last year's runner-up, Olga Morozova, is seeded only seventh. But Mrs King and Mrs Court are both in their 30s and, for one reason or another, have played only a few matches this year.

The seeding list is completed by Virginia Wade at six and three other women from Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United States, USSR, Yugoslavia, and Zimbabwe.

Miss Cottrell fails her first exam

Miss Cottrell, a 17-year-old Surrey girl, found two engagements in one day too much for her as she slipped out of the Wimbledon qualifying tournament at Roehampton yesterday.

Farrell insists on change of umpire before winning

Mark Farrell, a Surrey left-hander from Liverpool, and a British Davis Cup player, held up his first round match against Berger Anderson, a Swedish player, at Roehampton yesterday, insisting on a change of umpire in the tennis tournament at Nottingham yesterday.

Farrell, who lost 7-5, 6-3, 6-3, in which there had been several dubious decisions against him, insisted on a change of umpire. He said to an official, "I don't want to play with this man in charge." Farrell added: "It is useless carrying on like this. The man is calling every wrong and I am just not going to stand for it any longer." During the opening set there were some bad calls from the umpire, and Farrell was forced to change between the players. Farrell, obviously upset, had an argument with the South African referee, John Yell, playing on the next court.

Miss Cottrell was to take early leave after her first round match, but she was clearly lacking concentration in her first round match against an Australian, Jennifer Diamond. After a long and hard-fought battle, she lost 6-4, 6-1 in only 55 minutes.

Farrell, who lost 7-5, 6-3, 6-3, in which there had been several dubious decisions against him, insisted on a change of umpire. He said to an official, "I don't want to play with this man in charge." Farrell added: "It is useless carrying on like this. The man is calling every wrong and I am just not going to stand for it any longer." During the opening set there were some bad calls from the umpire, and Farrell was forced to change between the players.

Farrell, obviously upset, had an argument with the South African referee, John Yell, playing on the next court. The referee, eventually ordered a replacement of the umpire who, after several warnings and a few assistants, was demoted to a linesman. Even this change did not stop all the trouble and there were still some fiery words before Farrell won 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. Later, both Farrell and Anderson also complained about the state of the courts, which were in use for the first time at an important tournament.

Yull, who lost 7-5, 6-3, 6-3, in which there had been several dubious decisions against him, insisted on a change of umpire. He said to an official, "I don't want to play with this man in charge." Farrell added: "It is useless carrying on like this. The man is calling every wrong and I am just not going to stand for it any longer." During the opening set there were some bad calls from the umpire, and Farrell was forced to change between the players.

Farrell, obviously upset, had an argument with the South African referee, John Yell, playing on the next court. The referee, eventually ordered a replacement of the umpire who, after several warnings and a few assistants, was demoted to a linesman. Even this change did not stop all the trouble and there were still some fiery words before Farrell won 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. Later, both Farrell and Anderson also complained about the state of the courts, which were in use for the first time at an important tournament.

Yull, who lost 7-5, 6-3, 6-3, in which there had been several dubious decisions against him, insisted on a change of umpire. He said to an official, "I don't want to play with this man in charge." Farrell added: "It is useless carrying on like this. The man is calling every wrong and I am just not going to stand for it any longer." During the opening set there were some bad calls from the umpire, and Farrell was forced to change between the players.

Susan Barker starts well at Eastbourne

Susan Barker, of Palsgrove, won her opening match in the Eastbourne women's international tournament yesterday. Miss Barker, a 21-year-old player from Palsgrove, won 6-4, 6-3 against a Swedish player, Jennifer Diamond.

Squash rackets

British Open is first world championship
By Rex Bellamy
The International Squash Rackets Federation are transferring their headquarters from London to New Zealand. Founded in 1966, the ISRF has so far had a very successful career. John Burt, a New Zealand player, has been elected secretary of the British Squash Rackets Association.

Boxing

Ali will not be knocked too quickly, Bugner says
Kuala Lumpur, June 16.—Joe Bugner, the European heavyweight boxing champion, stepped up his sparring today for his world title bout with Muhammad Ali and talked of his strategy for July 1. He said he would not try to knock out the world champion in the early stages, the first five rounds. "That would be playing into the hands of Ali, and I'd be a fool to do so," he said.

British Open is first world championship

By Rex Bellamy
The International Squash Rackets Federation are transferring their headquarters from London to New Zealand. Founded in 1966, the ISRF has so far had a very successful career. John Burt, a New Zealand player, has been elected secretary of the British Squash Rackets Association.

Boxing

Ali will not be knocked too quickly, Bugner says
Kuala Lumpur, June 16.—Joe Bugner, the European heavyweight boxing champion, stepped up his sparring today for his world title bout with Muhammad Ali and talked of his strategy for July 1. He said he would not try to knock out the world champion in the early stages, the first five rounds. "That would be playing into the hands of Ali, and I'd be a fool to do so," he said.

Boxing

Ali will not be knocked too quickly, Bugner says
Kuala Lumpur, June 16.—Joe Bugner, the European heavyweight boxing champion, stepped up his sparring today for his world title bout with Muhammad Ali and talked of his strategy for July 1. He said he would not try to knock out the world champion in the early stages, the first five rounds. "That would be playing into the hands of Ali, and I'd be a fool to do so," he said.

PORT

Bolkonski : extremely well at present and difficult to oppose in the St James's Palace Stakes.

Duty and Moonlight Night are surely sired with an uphill struggle this afternoon.

Chum-Chum, Rehersal, Galway Bay and Super Cavalier could scarcely be expected to stand a chance for the Coventry Stakes. Chum-Chum won the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom. I took a great liking to Rehersal on the two occasions that I have seen him, but I also fell for Galway Bay when I saw him at the same time. Rehersal at Sandown and he is preferred now. Gavin Hunter thinks that he has more than just a sporting chance of winning this good price with Super Cavalier.

Neutron Star, a winner at Newmarket on 20th Guinness day and a judge unlikely to be out of the market in 1960 race since then, is my somewhat marginal selection for the Ascot Stakes. He is a son of the Epsom, Ebor and Cumberland could turn out to be the hard core of his opposition.

The list of 10 acceptors for Thursday's Gold Cup includes three from France—Sagaro, Le Bavard and Copte. There are also two French sprinters among the 10—Bellefleur and Eclair. Both for Friday's Kings Stand Stakes, which promises to be one of the most exhilarating races of the meeting.

STATE OF GOING (continued): Rivalry between (Owen Smith).

A black and white portrait of a man with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt and a dark, textured hat. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

Burgess: bluntness offended
some RFU members.

indury, East Lochin, from June 30 to July 2, Fred Daly, Bobby Locke, Kel Nagle, Max Faulkner and Roberto de Vicenzo head an entry which also includes Dan Rees, Christy O'Connor and Eric Lester, the champion.

THE ARTS

CINEMAS

Revolution and the Renaissance

quiggles scratched into the surface of the paint, representing reflections in the water are clearly related to Art Nouveau mannerisms, but already show that wiry and stringy line that characterizes Schiele's acid draughtsmanship.

Jimmy Boyle is serving a life sentence in Scotland. Recently he has been confined

in the Special Unit at Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow, an extraordinary and imaginative penal experiment where prisoners are encouraged to develop their own creative interests and are given the maximum personal freedom possible within the limits of the unit. Richard Demarco organized an exhibition of Boyle's sculpture at last summer's Edinburgh International Festival.

Festival and at that time I was able to visit the Special Unit. Boyle is provided with his own "studio" in a converted cell and allowed virtually unlimited books and visits. The sculptor has produced demonstrations how the creative instinct of man if nurtured and allowed to develop, even within the confinement of prison, can heal and transform. But irrespective of his circumstances

Boyle's work would be of interest. The small exhibition at the ICA shows his sculpture to be changing from a powerful natural figurative expressionism to a more complex style influenced by his own reading and study, but without losing the force and vigour of his earlier work.

Paul Overy

hall

Church of England and the Corporation of Trinity House (landlords) that an orchestra rehearsal room was more necessary than another residential skyscraper with a swimming pool where the altars used to stand.

Although it was the LSO and LPO who beat other orchestras to the foundation of such a hall, they are no dogs in the

danger. Henry Wood has been asked to rehearse or record with any orchestra or record company, once the founding members' requirements are booked. The long-felt need for such a place has been proved by many donations from conductors and soloists, and other musical benefactors. The building belongs, not to bureaucrats or plutocrats or any other non-musical organization, but to the musical community.

two orchestras, irretrievably. The caretaker and manager were chosen because they had always worked with symphony orchestras. Henry Wood Hall is every orchestral musician's dream come true, not least Henry Wood's.

William Mann

Louther also acted as chair

man of the collective choreographers, comprising four dancers from the company of seven, a far more successful attempt at cooperation than previous joint efforts we have seen. They look their cue mainly from Edith Sitwell's words, illustrating the episodes in a way which was always at least competent and sometimes strikingly imaginative, especially

In a matinee of works from the company's regular repertoire, Karen Bowen's amusing *Visions of Sugar Plums* proved the most successful offering, revealing an original and attractive sense of humour in movement. Although nothing else matched that, the works were

all created for the company and reveal considerable ability and even more promise in the young dancers.

One complaint: the ENO did itself no good by having photographs in the programmes that showed the wrong singers. No matter perhaps, when the company collected such fulsome praise.

Alan Blyth

certain choruses was emphasized; but it would be unreasonable to expect it to be so.

Of the other soloists, Robert Tear sang with a ring of prime youthfulness to his voice and Helen Trifford quickly developed a

and advice
write to
Nicholson

ND METALWORK

by's
Street, London W1A 2AA
grams: Abinitio, London
n 24454

Greeks bury their differences to preserve freedom

A visitor to a Madrid information booklet that attracted attention of a chamber should "press the door room."



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

IR VOTES ARE PART OF FREEDOM

Results of the last two elections, the second of an overall majority in the House of Commons, have shown that the Government has more than 40 per cent of the vote, have made many recognise how unfair our system is. Indeed it is so that the Liberals at the election won only two per cent of the vote. This is an disproportion, and the system for a minority has been in many of the silliest of an even more unrepresentative Labour Party Conference becoming the last of the Our electoral system is not fair, it is very damaging subject of electoral reform comparatively recent recruitment in active political discourse however venerable the name themselves may be, familiar with the elements subject, or even with the used. There is one general which can be made, who have studied the substantially exclude two systems seem at first sight to be attractive. One is the alternative, a method familiar to many because it is the mode of the President of the United States and the Australian Senate; the other is the system of proportional representation as used in Israel.

alternative vote is very e. The candidates are listed, the voter places a number of preference 1, 2, 3, 4 and the candidate with the most number of first preferences is eliminated, and the preferences of his supporters are redistributed. This process continues until one candidate has an outright majority, would be more simple and at first sight, more fair?

st defect of this system is that it is in no way proportional. Just like our present system it can produce a result in which a party with 40 per cent of the vote has only 20 per cent of the seats. Indeed it can theoretically produce results even more than the present from a election in Parliament of first preference votes. There is in the alternative vote in which would have stopped the Labour Party winning outright majority on less than 40 per cent of the first preference vote. If therefore the purpose of electoral reform is to have a fair proportion between seats and the alternative does not do it.

led, if one applies the alternative vote to the last election, the Labour Party still have been as greatly represented in England; they almost certainly have lost seats to the Liberals, and probably none to the Conservatives. They would have lost some seats to the Liberal Nationalists. The Liberal would have won a considerable number of seats from the Conservatives; indeed, in practice, the alternative vote would leave Labour overrepresented almost unaffected.

YING TIME FOR ISRAEL

dent Ford has now seen that Mr. Rabin is still to see the Syrian Minister at the end of week, and it appears that famous reassessment of the Middle East policy is yet complete. Dr. Kissinger's options wide open in the view published yesterday in *News and World Report*, say that the conditions for progress towards a settlement were there and if we got it on an interim basis will promote an overall settlement.

Rabin for his part makes secret of his continued stance for an interim settlement at this stage, though in the diplomatic style he has generated a series of conflict reports about his hopes of ending it. He was apparently something in Washington, he convinced him that Egypt's had softened stance, and something else from he deduces that it will have a bit further before it is possible. Israel's position has evidently softened, too, though Mr. Rabin's domestic public opinion to date is not emphasizing

while changing the Conservative Liberal share of the residue.

More than that, the alternative vote naturally produces elections in which the winner is decided not by who gets most first preferences, but by who gets least. Take this situation: Labour, 20,000; Liberals, 11,000; Conservatives, 10,000. That under our present system is a comfortable Labour majority. With the alternative vote, the Conservatives' second preferences are counted, and perhaps they all go to the Liberal. The result is then Labour, 20,000; Liberal, 21,000, and a Liberal victory.

Different

Yet suppose the Labour Party did not do quite so well and the result was Labour, 18,000; Conservative, 12,000; Liberal, 11,000. (Or suppose the Labour agent had lined up 2,000 loyal members of the Tribune group and told them to vote Conservative for their party's sake.) Then it would be the Liberal second preferences which would be divided, and they might still evenly, to give Labour 23,500, Conservative 17,500. In short a party can win a seat on fewer votes, and lose it on more. In the speech on the Alternative Vote Bill in 1951, Sir Winston Churchill described it as "the worst of all possible plans: the stupidest, the least scientific and the most unreal. The decision... is to be determined by the most worthless votes given for the most worthless candidates." Indeed the election is determined by the second or third preferences of voters for the candidates who come at the bottom of the poll.

Full list proportional representation has quite different objections to be made to it. In this system all the voters cast their votes in one great national constituency for a choice of party lists. There is a natural tendency to form splinter parties; as factions struggle to control the lists of the major parties, the defeated factions break off to form their own parties. This leads to fragmented coalitions of such parties, and often to weak government. This has been demonstrated in Israel, Italy, France in the Third and Fourth Republics, and elsewhere.

That is why most people who have seriously investigated electoral reforms advocate either the mixed proportional system, of which one example is the Federal Republic of Germany, or the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies, the Irish system. Full proportion of seats to votes, subject to a provision that no party with less than 5 per cent of the vote in an electoral region can benefit from extra seats; that has prevented splinter parties being successful. Because it is a mixed system, Germany retains individual geographical constituencies. Some variant of this is the most likely to be chosen as the system of election for the European Parliament.

Miss Enid Lakeman, whose work on electoral systems deserves the highest praise and the Electoral Reform Society prefer the single transferable

agreement with a time limit only freezes the situation for a time, and a time during which, according to most current military wisdom, the balance of military force is more likely to shift in the Arabs' favour than against them.

It follows that Israel, if she obtains this respite (and even if she also obtains the new weapons for which she has been begging the United States, as Mr. Rabin was almost certainly promised in Washington that she would), would be very ill advised simply to sit back and wait. Whatever time she obtains will be precious time to be used in a genuine search for an overall peace; and if there is to be a moratorium on Arab attempts to change the status quo by force, it would seem only just that there should also be a moratorium on Israeli attempts to change it unilaterally by building further Jewish towns and settlements in the disputed territories. If Israel appears to be delaying an overall negotiation simply in order to pre-empt it by "creating facts", she cannot seriously expect to see a lessening of the Arab suspicion and hostility which constitute her real long-term problem.

erals at Strasbourg

Mr Richard Moore has been several times in your columns that the Liberal representation in the British House of Commons will be reduced from two to one. This will be an injustice of a kind that it will be to damage the British reputation for democracy and fair play to our partners in the Community.

Liberal polled well over five per cent of the vote in the last General election; this amounted to almost 10 per cent of the votes cast, and, on any fair basis of representation, the Liberals should be

entitled to seven of the thirty-six British seats.

Our European partners are well aware that the Liberal Party is the only British party which has been consistently, and from the beginning, in favour of full British membership of the Community. To weaken the Liberal representation would be taken as a sign of continued British half-heartedness towards the development of the Community. Since in the recent election we were the only party to stress the need to advance rapidly to European union, and to call for direct elections to the European Parliament. We were also the only party to receive the active help of Liberal colleagues at public meetings in many parts of

the country—in multi-member constituencies, the system used in Ireland. This has the advantage of allowing electors to express preference between different members of the same party. It is not fully proportional, but in five member constituencies or above gives a rough approximation of seats to first preference votes.

There are drawbacks. The Irish experience in the last three elections is not reassuring. In 1965 Fianna Fail won 50.3 per cent of the seats on 47.7 per cent of the first preference votes; in 1969 they lost the election in the country, with their votes falling to 45.7 per cent against the combined Opposition vote of 51.1 per cent, but actually increased their share of seats to 51.7 per cent. In 1973 Fianna Fail improved their share of the poll to 46.3 per cent—and reduced the Opposition first preference lead from 4.4 to 2.6 per cent—but their share of seats fell to 47.5 per cent, so they lost power. For two elections the Irish system produced a Fianna Fail majority on a minority vote, and at the third election produced a Fine Gael-Labour majority on a minority vote. In the 1969 election Fine Gael and Labour had more than 51 per cent of the first preference votes but Fianna Fail had more than 51 per cent of the seats.

Complicated

With five member constituencies, as opposed to the range between three and five in Ireland, the single transferable vote is more nearly representative. Yet some preliminary work suggests that in the United Kingdom its introduction would result in too many 2:2:1 results—perhaps 60 per cent of all constituencies—with consequent under-representation of the leading party. (If the quota for election is one sixth of the vote, then a 45:35:20 split would produce this 2:2:1 ratio, and the party most often in the lead would receive fewer seats than its fair share.) At all events the Irish system is not a truly proportional system, and will therefore produce somewhat disproportionate results, though not nearly as disproportionate as the present system or as the alternative vote. In the choice between some variant of the Irish system it also weighs with us, that the Irish system does away with single member constituencies but the German keeps them.

The subject is complicated, but the central question is simple. What is a fair electoral system? Our definition is that it is one in which the choice of the electors—that is their first preference votes—should be proportionately represented in Parliament. If eleven million people vote Labour, eleven million Conservative, five million Liberal and three million for regional or nationalist parties, then a Parliament of 600 should have 220 Labour, 220 Conservative, 100 Liberal and sixty nationalist members. That is the simple principle; some electoral systems achieve it almost completely, some imperfectly, and some, including our present one, not at all.

It seems that Israel would be willing to give up the Abu Rudais oilfield and at any rate the greater part of the Midfa and Gidi passes without insisting on a formal Egyptian declaration of non-belligerence, provided that Egypt undertakes to give the agreement a minimum life of three years, with a corresponding mandate for the United Nations Emergency Force.

This would not, as Mr. Rabin explained in New York on Sunday, mean postponing for three years any attempt to make further progress towards an overall settlement. For instance through bilateral negotiations with Syria or through a resumption of the Geneva Conference. But it would bind Egypt not to resort to war if such attempts were to fail.

A deal of this type should be easier for President Sadat to sell to his Arab allies than one involving a declaration of non-belligerence. The latter has an air of finality about it which the Syrians would certainly interpret as desertion and would also—as Mr. Sadat himself said—be tantamount to an invitation to Israel to stay indefinitely in the remainder of Sinai. By contrast an

the country—from nearly all the Community countries, thereby emphasizing our commitment to political unity.

Finally Mr. Peter Kirk, leader of the Conservative group in the European Parliament, has rightly stressed the heavy burden that is thrown on MPs and peers who attend at Strasbourg. For the five million Liberal voters to be represented by a single individual would impose a load which would be as unfair personally as it would be politically unjust to a great section of British opinion.

Yours, etc,
RICHARD MOORE,
European House,
11 Whitehall Place, SW1.
June 12.

Legal duties of Attorney General

From Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC, Conservative MP for Epsom and Ewell

Sir, In the report concerning the Attorney General's decision to seek a High Court injunction over the publication of the diaries of the late Richard Crossman it is stated that this will embarrass the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Employment and the Government. It would be grossly unfair were it permitted to do so.

Everyone, certainly everyone in public life, ought clearly to understand that the Attorney General has constitutional duties and responsibilities which may not and cannot be influenced by either minister, Government and, least of all, by party. Moreover, the Attorney General is not, as Mr. Grosvenor wrote, "the legal head" of the executive. He is the principal adviser to the Crown on points of law. He is primarily an officer of the Crown and it is that sense an officer of the public.

No Prime Minister, no Cabinet, no Government, can interfere with the Attorney General's constitutional duties in the prosecution of offenders or the enforcement of the law concerning public interest.

The issue arising out of the proceedings which have been announced by the Attorney General is obviously an issue of great public importance and one which must be fully considered by the whole future Cabinet Government.

Yours, etc,
PETER RAWLINSON,
12 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, E.C.4.
June 16.

Hawkesmoor's masterpiece

From Mr Ivor Bulmer-Thomas

Sir, I am sorry that the Bishop of Stepney should have taken the line he has (June 14) about Christ Church, Spitalfields, because he knows the facts as well as I do; and if he had not rejected my design for the diocese of London to make a public statement when the essential decision was taken there would have been no need for Dr. Lang and Mr. Colquhoun to have written (June 11).

"Hawkesmoor's masterpiece" is structurally safe. It was made structurally safe, some 10 years ago at an expenditure of £60,000, mainly derived from the £50,000 that the Friends of St. John's, Smith Square, paid for the freehold of "Archer's masterpiece". When Dr. Lang and Mr. Colquhoun write of signs of settlement at the west end I doubt if they are doing so on professional advice.

Chris Church, Spitalfields, could have been declared redundant, but the Rector, the Rev E. G. Stride, came forward with a well conceived plan for retaining it as the parish church, and putting his plan, and in my view rightly, for it is always best that if possible such a building should be kept in use for the purpose for which it was built.

I do not know exactly where the plan stands today, and I should have preferred to see the Rector writing the letter but I believe he is a bold man. He takes a long time to settle all the details of such a scheme and to obtain the necessary consents. What I can say is that all the amenity societies have been fully consulted, and that the Rector has been most helpful and responsive to their advice. Under the plan Hawkesmoor's galleries would be reinstated and the space underneath them used for offices, which would greatly help, and perhaps meet, running costs.

The Bishop of Stepney resembles Lord George in one respect; he uses figures as adjectives. His figure of £500,000 for the remaining costs of repair is a wild exaggeration and not based on any professional estimate that I know. The things of which Dr. Lang and Mr. Colquhoun complain are, in fact, a long and dubious settlement superficial and soon remedied.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR BULMER-THOMAS, Director,
Friends of Friendless Churches,
12 Edwards Square, W8.
June 14.

Historic Church buildings

From Mr Colin Avery and Mr Mark Girouard

Sir, The Bishop of Stepney's letter of June 14 gives the impression that the Church of England is unreasonably expected to maintain elaborate buildings to the detriment of its work as a Christian body. When we sympathize with its predicament, it should be pointed out that the Church is in this position through its own choice.

When in 1912 buildings of historic or architectural interest were put under the protection of the law the then Archbishop of Canterbury resisted what was considered state interference with Church property and obtained exemption by guaranteeing that the Church would adequately maintain its churches and cathedrals. Ever since then the Church, unlike everybody else, has been at complete liberty to do what it wants with its own historic buildings. The price of this liberty has been that it has no assistance from state funds.

Last year it was given a state grant for the first time, but succeeded in maintaining its exemption, thus being put in the position of having its cake and eating it. There are strong arguments for the state assuming greater responsibility for the preservation of historic churches, but in return the Church should surely give up its exemption from the planning laws. Until this has been done it is in no position to protest at its self-imposed burden.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN AVERY,
MARK GIROUARD,
35 Colville Road, W11.
June 14.

NUR's claim and the national crisis

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen

Sir, Elementary logic leads to the conclusion that if the rate of increase proposed for railwaymen is a lot less than the rate already agreed for other workers, including public sector workers, without special reasons, then we will resist it. Because the railwaymen's negotiating time-scale falls at or near the end of the cycle we are bound to be related to what has been awarded elsewhere.

If what has been agreed earlier is more than the award to us then we may be said to be discriminated against, for some reason. We all know what that is. Can it be right then that although higher rates have been awarded to others, and the inflationary consequence was less obvious because the general economic situation was cooler at the time, railwaymen are to be condemned as excessively demanding, simply because the crisis for the nation and the industry has got worse?

The would smug of a propaganda device which appears to be a role of sacrificial lamb for the difficulties of the nation as a whole. The most biased could not fail to recognize that.

Should anyone doubt the premise on which I have based this argument, I would point out that in real terms, if we had to accept the Tribunal award as it is, the railwaymen's new money (that is the amount above the threshold payments which were at a flat rate and most received) would be only £2.65 a week; this compares with previous settlements giving the surface worker in the mines £4.60, the postman £6.30, the labourer in electricity supply £5.36, the London doctor £6.40, the electrical power engineer £7.76, the house doctor £8.21, and the police constable £10.31.

I am acutely conscious of the economic state of the nation. Repeatedly I have stated my willingness to hammer out a new and effective social contract, incorporating all elements, with machinery to maintain it.

I cannot believe that the future is going to be in jeopardy for a little more for railwaymen now. Long-term positive action for the nation from us will pave the way for more effective action on Britain's difficulties. A denial of justice could hamper our ability to cooperate because of our members' resentment.

Yours sincerely,
S. WEIGHILL,
General Secretary, National Union of Railwaymen,
Unity House, 100, Cannon Road, NW1, June 16.

From Dr Nathaniel Micklem, CH

Sir, I am very puzzled. I have had a warm feeling for the railwaymen ever since, some 80 years ago, it was my great ambition to be an engine driver or a guard.

We can hardly be too generous to a positive worker who has done so much and so long for his country and his fellow citizens. But it would not have occurred to me that because we have decided to increase their income mine and everyone else's should be likewise increased. We are all suffering from inflation and the least well-off are suffering most. The railwaymen are a very powerful trades union, but are they saying to us that while everyone else must suffer they must be lifted above our common plight? That does not sound in the least like the railwaymen I have known. If the railwaymen are in real distress we owe it to them to come to their assistance at once. They are doing a public service for which we are grateful. I think and hope that, whatever more they should ideally earn, they have enough to live on happily in their own homes.

They are talking of a railway strike. They can picture as well as I can what acute suffering, what distress, physical and mental, and sometimes near heartbreak the strike would involve for thousands and even millions of innocent people who have to get to work and home again at night with the help of the

State aid at a price

From Mr Arthur Seldon

Sir, In arguing today (June 13), rightly, that inflation will not be mastered until the budget deficit is tackled, you are relying too much on macro-measures by Government and too little on micro-solutions in the market.

Whatever may be said for or against resisting increases in public sector pay, or monetary control, the principle to be applied more widely to other personal Government services, central and local, is that the principle of Government expenditure should be contained within the limits of the Government's own resources. It would be a reasonable expectation to reduce the deficit, and reduce demand and to discipline supply to reduce Government spending.

This proposal may seem revolutionary. The Chancellor has wisely replaced Treasury subsidies to nationalized services by prices nearer costs, let the principle be applied more widely to other personal Government services, central and local, is that the principle of Government expenditure should be contained within the limits of the Government's own resources. It would be a reasonable expectation to reduce the deficit, and reduce demand and to discipline supply to reduce Government spending.

The rationale for providing Government personal services at nil prices ("free") or nominal prices (heavily subsidized) is often lost in the mists: they were (usually wrong) responses to low incomes. But they may now ironically redistribute income from less-wealthy to more-wealthy (higher education, sport facilities).

They are also (usually) superfluous (housing), inefficient (refuse collection), insensitive (schooling), wasteful (libraries, water), haphazard (car parking), arbitrary (planning permissions), inefficient (environmental protection), corrupt (building), under-financed (police), or non-existent (casualty departments).

As long as personal services are under-priced the demand for them will outrun their supply and Government will be inexorably entangled in high expenditure and large budget deficits.

The objection that pricing is "politically impossible" is unproved. One referendum has shown that public preferences have been misjudged. I suggest the same would be found in personal service

railwaymen. I simply cannot believe that the railwaymen are saying to us that unless we lift them above the present troubles which involve us all, they will inflict this nightmarish disaster upon us.

Railwaymen, as I have talked with them over the past 80 years, are not like that at all. But what am I to think?

Yours faithfully,
NATHANIEL MICKLEM,
Sheepstead House,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire,
June 15.

The next wage round

From Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Ian Bower

Sir, The leading article in yesterday's edition of your journal (June 13) is an example of lucidity and simplicity which will be appreciated by all those of your subscribers such as myself who do not claim to be economists. Some of these will have observed that at the same time as your article appeared the Chancellor is reported as having referred in the House of Commons to guide lines on which the Government is thinking of a maximum of 15 per cent increases in the next "wage round".

As one who was bred and nurtured in the middle class business community which accepted the dictum "you can't have what you can't pay for" I am emboldened by your article to ask through your columns why Mr. Healey should be talking about the next round of wage increases being limited to 15 per cent or any other per cent since the last round of increases. Can he afford the last wage increases nor the one before that?

Has not the time arrived when the next round of wage negotiations should not be about how much wages should go up but by how much they should come down or are we resigned to continuing for ever and ever to sink faster and faster into the bog of bankruptcy, unemployment and ultimately civil strife?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
IAN F. BOWATER,
Hasker House,
Woolley Farm,
Maidenhead Thicket,
Berkshire.

Seeking cure for inflation

From Mr L. E. S. Seemey

Sir, Full marks to Michael Young, Sir, for his report to the National Consumer Council, for a brave try at an interim solution to the problem of inflation. But I fear his good intentions are so many paving stones on that well-known road. Subsidies mean trade distortion, and they have to be paid for (Mr Young suggests by way of extra national insurance contributions), but tax by any other name smells just as much as transferring our money from one pocket to another. It all adds up to the Government wanting more (printing more) money, and it is we—the tax payers—who have to find it.

This "new" package suggests some sort of statutory income policy, but that idea brought down a previous government. Would this one be prepared to chance its arm? I doubt it, and I doubt also whether the increased national insurance contribution would be ignored in subsequent wage demands.

I note that Mr. Young has been appointed as an independent member of the National Economic Development Council, and that he proposes to air these ideas there. Doubtless the industrialists, unions and Government representatives will give them careful consideration. How I wish the retail trade was also represented at meetings of that august body, so that it might have the benefit of the ideas used by people who actually come into contact with the consumer.

Yours sincerely,
LESLIE SEEMEY, Director General,
The National Chamber of Trade,
Enterprise House,
Rensley-on-Thames,
Oxon.
June 12.

pricing if the alternatives were made clear: higher taxes; deteriorating education; medical care, housing, pensions; neglect of the needy.

The stubborn obstacle lies rather in the minds of politicians who believe in macro-measures by Government and too little on micro-solutions in the market. "Social wages" are a substitute for private wages; that the people prefer higher to lower taxes, poorer to better quality, is not a new discovery. The truth that everything has its price. That is a cynical image I do not recognize because it is not true.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR SELDON,
Institute of Economic Affairs,
2 Lord North Street, SW1.
June 13.

Community Land Bill

From Mr Bruce Rumgay

Sir, Mr. Stephen Ross and Mr. Nick Budgen in their letter (June 13) about the undesirability of all-night sittings of the standing committee on the Community Land Bill mention among other things that the public could not be expected to attend. At the moment the public are in fact further handicapped because a printers' dispute is delaying publication of the official record.

Organizations such as the CBI, which is greatly worried about many aspects of this Bill, have therefore no means of checking quickly what has happened in standing committee or what assurances may have been given by the Government. By the time the reports are received (I understand that this has been another all-night sitting since the two Members wrote to you) it may be too late to pick up points which are ought to be pressed in the First House. It is therefore all the more important that the committee should sit at times when it is reasonably practicable for the public to be present.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE RUMGAY,
Chairman, Land Use Panel,
Confederation of British Industry,
21 Tothill Street, SW1.

Commission rates for auction sales

From Mr David Mason

Sir, I write in connection with the proposed commission charges that both Sotheby's and Christie's intend to make on the purchasers of goods in their auction sales.

Previously a rate varying between 10-15 per cent has been charged, solely to the vendor, but they are now proposing to charge the "purchaser" a further 10 per cent. They state that their concern is to reduce the commission to the vendor to a straight 10 per cent. Effectively, this means that these two auction rooms will be obtaining 20 per cent commission for auctioning the goods.

This additional charge is to the vendor and not the purchaser, as stated, for if a painting is worth £1,000 to the purchaser, his last bid, remembering the 10 per cent charge, will be £900, and, after commission, the vendor will get in the region of £800, as opposed to now, when the vendor receives £900. The news handouts put out by the auctioneers lead people to believe that the purchasers will pay 10 per cent more than they would have done previously, but I do not believe that this will be the case.

There are many points not generally appreciated by the public at large when it comes to selling works of art through both Christie's and Sotheby's. It often takes months from the handover of the goods until payment is actually received, and one very important point is that neither saleroom will pay out unless the goods sold at auction have been paid for by the purchaser. Quite simply, these auction houses are now asking for a commission of 20 per cent for their services, for which they have no capital outlay or risk.

The story, however, does not end there, for I believe that they have a compulsory insurance system which the vendor has to utilize, and he is also charged with any costs arising from sale, and if, perchance, Sotheby's or Christie's should illustrate a particularly important lot in a magazine, for instance, I am informed that they will sometimes pass on a percentage of this cost also.

In their catalogues, both firms state in their conditions of sale that they are acting as agents on behalf of the seller. It seems to me that they will now be acting only for themselves, and can hardly be acting fairly on behalf of two interested parties.

Sotheby's and Christie's have stated that they are only falling into line with the commissions charged by auction houses on the Continent. I would like to see a list of the commissions charged by auction houses in Europe may have a maximum of twelve sales a year, and in many cases only four sales a year, Christie's and Sotheby's hold sales, and are collecting commission, every day of the week. It may well be that this is one of the main factors that has encouraged London to be the art centre of the world, which I, personally, feel could be threatened by their proposed action.

I am particularly alarmed to see these steps being taken at this time, for we will like to select our many decades as the art centre of the world, and this may well have been to some extent due to our auction house commission rates, which have been less than those elsewhere, and indeed, I feel that we may well be in view of this privilege that we, in England, have held, that the Government have given us special treatment with regard to VAT, etc.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MASON,
Mar Connel-Mason & Son,
14 Duke Street, SW1.
June 12.

Studying climate

From Dr J. S. A. Green and Mr A. A. Whitworth

Sir, It would be unfortunate if your interesting leader of June 3 ("The prospect of a minor ice age") were to create the impression that only archivists are studying climate. Almost every branch of meteorology is so complex that no one discipline covers all the skills needed for its study, and climatology is no exception. A number of research groups have tackled the problem of forecasting climate through the use of computer techniques which amount to an extension of those used to produce 24-hour weather forecasts. Some work of this type suggests that climate is intrinsically unpredictable; that changes and trends may occur, but their future evolution cannot be exactly forecast. In part, at least, this conclusion may be traced to the fact that the relevant numerical models calculate climatic statistics from a simulation of a season's day-to-day weather: the amount of computing required is formidable and for a variety of reasons, the results may be unrealistically sensitive to changes in the initial conditions.

An alternative mechanistic approach seeks to avoid these complexities by implicitly representing the effects of day-to-day weather and dealing solely in terms of the mean quantities. Several university groups in this country have contributed substantially in the development of these methods.

We applaud wholeheartedly your advocacy of more work on the climate problem. It is relevant to point out that the Chair of Meteorology at Imperial College (the longest-established such post in this country) is in danger of being allowed to lapse as a result of the policy of severe financial restriction in the universities. This policy does not have sensational consequences overnight but the long-term effect will be serious and, if not irreversible, will take many years to remedy.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. A. GREEN,
A. A. WHITE,
Atmospheric Physics Group,
Department of Physics,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Huxley Buildings,
Exhibition Road, SW7.

CEI happy about split between members

By Derek Harris

One of two opposing factions in the controversy among chartered engineers over the future structure of their profession yesterday threw down the gauntlet on a major issue.

But the Council of Engineering Institutions, umbrella organization for all 15 chartered bodies, welcomed the move as a chance for discussion to continue with some chance of compromise being reached. There had been renewed speculation that CEI might break up over the issue of its future organization.

Six of the CEI institutions—Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Gas, Mechanical and Structural Engineers—announced yesterday their joint agreement to seeking reform of CEI, particularly in creating individual membership with the right of direct election of CEI governing board members.

This is a key issue because the other nine institutions are anxious to retain a federal structure with only nominees from each institution on the governing board. The nine, all smaller institutions, fear that direct election of roughly half a new governing board—a proposal due for decision at the next CEI board meeting on July 24—could result in their being outvoted.

At CEI headquarters it is felt to be significant that the six are apparently not being specific about the number of board members to be directly elected. Although the three largest institutions which started the controversy 10 months ago—the Civils, Mechanicals and Electricals—feel keenly on the individual membership issue, their three supporters might be more ready for compromise.

Equally, among the nine, only four to five are strongly against reform. Professor John Coates, CEI chairman, believes more over that means could be found to ensure fair representation of the smaller institutions.

Catering trades' turnover up 17 pc on year

Turnover in the catering trades increased by 17 per cent during the three months ended in April over the corresponding period last year.

Results issued yesterday by the Department of Industry reflect higher prices charged in the licensed trade, which showed an increase of 19 per cent for public houses and 17 per cent for hotels.

Restaurants, cafés and fish and chip shops reported a much smaller increase of 12 per cent. Compared with the preceding three months, the total turnover (seasonally adjusted) of the catering trades increased by just under 3 per cent.

British Leyland distributors worry about one-third cutback reports

By Clifford Webb

British Leyland distributors and dealers are becoming increasingly worried by persistent reports that the newly integrated car company is planning a further huge reduction in its sales outlets.

Motor industry sources suggest that as many as 1,200 of the 3,500 retail outlets could disappear through enforced mergers or withdrawal of franchise facilities.

A spokesman for British Leyland Cars—the merged Austin Morris, Rover Triumph and Jaguar company—said: "Further rationalization of the dealer network would seem to make good sense but at this state any such reports are pure conjecture."

Mr Ronald Sewell, consultant to the Motor Agents Association, said: "If they really get down to rationalizing their present cumbersome model ranges and franchise outlets

we could see a cut of around one third. That would still leave British Leyland with twice as many dealers as Ford."

Ford have 378 main dealers—the equivalent of distributors—and 850 retail dealers, a total of 1,228. A one-third cut would still leave British Leyland with 2,300 distributors and dealers, by far the largest network in the country.

The possibility of large numbers of disaffected dealerships becoming available for the second time in recent years could open the door to further inroads by the importers.

After its formation in 1968 British Leyland reduced its network by some 1,500 dealers. Most of them were picked up by the newly arrived importers.

The man in the hot seat at BL is Mr Bernard Bates, the former sales and servicing

director of Austin Morris, who was recently appointed director of franchised development and planning for British Leyland cars.

A further upset could be around the corner for the motor trade as a whole. Mr Ron Williamson, former managing director of Volkswagen GB and now managing director of Castrol, told a private meeting of 120 motor trade executives: "Do not expect the franchised dealer system to go on unchanged indefinitely. It could be attractive to any car manufacturer to buy up a few score prime sites and sell direct to the public."

"People may say this will alienate the affections of dealers. But the fortunes of the manufacturers are such that the problems of their own survival may outweigh worries about dealer reactions."

National Savings chief confident

By Tim Congdon

Inflation's impact on the real value of national savings was described as "heartbreaking" by Sir John Anstey, president and chairman of the National Savings Committee, in an address to the City of London Savings Committee yesterday.

"The time has come to call a halt. Reason must prevail," he said.

He welcomed "the first moderate steps into a world of financial indecision" a reference to the interlinked pensioner and SAYE national savings schemes. But he deplored "the fact that circumstances have been allowed to develop over the years to a point where steps are necessary to protect our savings."

Inflation had not caused Sir John to reconsider his views on the desirability of saving. "From the point of view of the community it has a counter-inflationary influence and lessens the taxation demands of Government," he said.

He expressed confidence in the future of the national savings movement. "National savings themselves are looking up and I have a feeling that they will continue to do so," he claimed.

New Iran order for Herbert

Herbert Machine Tools of Coventry has received orders totalling more than £500,000 from Iran Tractor Sazi and Iran Compressor.

This follows the recently announced £1m order from Machine Sazi Tabriz and the signing of an agreement with the industrial development and renovation organization of Iran.

Arabs adjourn talks on common currency

Abu Dhabi, June 16.—Representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain ended a first round of technical talks here on a decision in principle by the four Gulf states to unify their currencies.

Mr John Scott, director of the U.A.E. currency board, said he and his counterparts in the other states would hand their governments within the next month detailed reports on proposals made in the two-day meeting.

A final decision on currency unification would be taken at a political level after full technical studies, which would continue at three-monthly intervals, he told the government daily newspaper *Al Ittihad*.

Mr Scott said the first meeting of central bank directors or their equivalents—the second was to be held in Kuwait—was concerned with technical problems.

The four states had left the door open for Saudi Arabia, which had no such problems, and the Sultanate of Oman to join them, he said.

He added that a unified Gulf currency would not be based on the United States dollar or on sterling, but on either the national Monetary Fund special drawing rights or possibly on another basket of leading currencies.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia earlier this year tied their riyals to the D.R. Qatari, the U.A.E. and Oman have so far maintained the gold and dollar parity of their dinar, dirham and riyal.

Japan-Soviet plan dropped: The proposed project for Japan and the Soviet Union to develop jointly the Tyumen oilfields in western Siberia had effectively been abandoned, a Japanese spokesman for the Japan-Soviet Economic Cooperation Committee said in Tokyo.

The Japanese side had made clear at the committee's last annual general meeting in October that it could not accept the Soviet terms, under which Japan would have advanced about \$3,100m (about £1,350m) in credits and received up to 25 million tonnes of crude oil a year, he said.

Kuwait takeover talks: Kuwait has resumed negotiations with British Petroleum and Gulf Oil on the takeover of their remaining 20 per cent shares in the state-owned Kuwait Oil Company.

Desert oil search: Egypt has signed a multi-million dollar agreement with Japan to search for oil in the Eastern Desert, and forecast that Egypt's total production would reach one million barrels a day by 1980.

Loans doubled to the new EEC countries

Luxembourg, June 16.—The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has doubled the loans to the three new EEC members—Britain, the Irish Republic and Denmark, the bank's annual report showed today.

Loans to these countries came to 215,500,000 units of account (one unit equals 11.2) out of a total of 996,400,000 units which was a rise of 22 per cent.

Another striking feature of last year's intra-Community operations was an increase of more than 50 per cent in loans to Italy which amounted to 278 million units of account. Twenty of the 22 Italian loans were for southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia.

The report said 540,200,000 million units of account were lent to help projects in underdeveloped or conversion regions especially in Italy, Britain and Ireland "where regional problems are the most worrying".

Commercial Union staff win 15pc rises

Pay rises of between 13 and 15 per cent backdated to June 1 have been agreed for staff at Commercial Union Assurance below manager level. With increases received in September and threshold payments, salaries will have gone up by between 37 and 41 per cent during the past 12 months.

Mr Bill Shrimpton, manager of Logica's management systems group, reports that, over the past five years, "the emphasis of our studies has moved from improving the performance of installed equipment to predicting the most economical hardware/software growth path to handle future workload forecasts."

Performance measurements have been made on the latest machine ranges of most of the big manufacturers—including ICL, IBM and Univac. Clients have included British Steel Corporation, Central Computer Agency and British Gas Corporation.

A two-week study of only four programmes in the Civil Service Department's PRISM database installation, an ICL 1904S, resulted in the saving of 1,200 job-stream hours; and further savings have since been made.

Future enhancement proposals costing about £500,000 were checked in a large installation. Realistic analysis enabled the hardware order to be reduced to £200,000.

Modifications to the Ferranti Argus operating system at British Gas Corporation's control

'No possibility of failure' as tin conference nears end

Alan Macgregor, Geneva, June 16.—The 29 countries in the agreement plus seven others, including the United States, the world's largest consumer—and nine others represented as observers.

M. Legoux, who has been associated with the negotiations on tin since the first agreement was concluded 19 years ago, referred to the particular difficulty of protecting the ceiling price under certain market conditions, in view of the dissimilar interests involved.

Asked whether the United States would be in the new agreement, he said the Americans had taken a very active part in the work of the conference.

The conference, which began on May 20, is being attended by the 29 countries in the agreement plus seven others, including the United States, the world's largest consumer—and nine others represented as observers.

Refrigerator home sales rise

Deliveries of domestic refrigerators by United Kingdom manufacturers to the home market increased by 9 per cent in March compared with the same month last year. Figures published by the Food Preserver in a survey of the industry yesterday show a total of 95,998 compared with 87,775 in March, 1974.

These results bring the total for the first three months of the year up by 13 per cent to 288,114 compared with 255,120 last year.

Computer news

Logica, the London systems consultancy, has recently completed its fifth performance analysis contract, using hardware monitors which measure the load on different parts of the computer during normal operation.

Significant savings through increased productivity and better planning information have been achieved.

Mr Bill Shrimpton, manager of Logica's management systems group, reports that, over the past five years, "the emphasis of our studies has moved from improving the performance of installed equipment to predicting the most economical hardware/software growth path to handle future workload forecasts."

Performance measurements have been made on the latest machine ranges of most of the big manufacturers—including ICL, IBM and Univac. Clients have included British Steel Corporation, Central Computer Agency and British Gas Corporation.

A two-week study of only four programmes in the Civil Service Department's PRISM database installation, an ICL 1904S, resulted in the saving of 1,200 job-stream hours; and further savings have since been made.

Future enhancement proposals costing about £500,000 were checked in a large installation. Realistic analysis enabled the hardware order to be reduced to £200,000.

Modifications to the Ferranti Argus operating system at British Gas Corporation's control

Europe 'must unite' to combat inflation

By Malcolm Brown

Europe must pull together to solve the major international problems facing society, Mr George Thomson, member of the European Commission in charge of regional policy, said in London yesterday.

"I am convinced," he said, "that a major reason for Britain's 'Yes' to the Community was the recognition that so many of today's problems can be solved if the European nations can combine in tackling them."

Mr Thomson was addressing the annual congress of the European Centre of Public Enterprises.

He said the major problems facing us are the economic problems of the post-energy crisis era and the problem of fighting a war simultaneously against inflation and recession.

The problems all had an international dimension. Inflation can be as infectious a disease between countries as the Great Plague in medieval times," he said. "National solutions interact. One country's deflation can mean another country's balance of payments deficit. That is why solutions for us must have a European dimension."

The public enterprises had a major contribution to make in solving these economic problems within their own countries.

He was convinced that the contributions from public enterprises would be that much greater because they had come together in London to pool ideas and look at solutions within a European dimension.

The public sector, he said, had a direct and very large contribution to make in the success of a common European energy policy.

Britain, despite the future advantage of its substantial national asset of North Sea oil, had as much interest as any other member in a successful common energy policy.

Speaking for the British Government, Lord Goronoff, Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that in the National Enterprise Board they were creating a new type of instrument for public ownership.

The Government, he stressed, did not believe in a public sector consisting of only lame ducks. There should be a few geese, too—some of which laid golden eggs.

by the 29 countries in the agreement plus seven others, including the United States, the world's largest consumer—and nine others represented as observers.

M. Legoux, who has been associated with the negotiations on tin since the first agreement was concluded 19 years ago, referred to the particular difficulty of protecting the ceiling price under certain market conditions, in view of the dissimilar interests involved.

Asked whether the United States would be in the new agreement, he said the Americans had taken a very active part in the work of the conference.

VW negotiating Iraq plant

Wolfsburg, June 16.—Volkswagenwerk AG and its Brazilian subsidiary are negotiating with the Iraqi Government on possible construction of a Volkswagen assembly plant in Iraq.

A Volkswagen spokesman said today that plans existed for a \$300m (£130m) plant in Iraq that would begin output in 1977 or 1978. A newspaper reported that the plant would produce 50,000 cars a year after eight years was envisaged.

Logica, the London systems consultancy, has recently completed its fifth performance analysis contract, using hardware monitors which measure the load on different parts of the computer during normal operation.

Significant savings through increased productivity and better planning information have been achieved.

Mr Bill Shrimpton, manager of Logica's management systems group, reports that, over the past five years, "the emphasis of our studies has moved from improving the performance of installed equipment to predicting the most economical hardware/software growth path to handle future workload forecasts."

Performance measurements have been made on the latest machine ranges of most of the big manufacturers—including ICL, IBM and Univac. Clients have included British Steel Corporation, Central Computer Agency and British Gas Corporation.

A two-week study of only four programmes in the Civil Service Department's PRISM database installation, an ICL 1904S, resulted in the saving of 1,200 job-stream hours; and further savings have since been made.

Future enhancement proposals costing about £500,000 were checked in a large installation. Realistic analysis enabled the hardware order to be reduced to £200,000.

Modifications to the Ferranti Argus operating system at British Gas Corporation's control

by the 29 countries in the agreement plus seven others, including the United States, the world's largest consumer—and nine others represented as observers.

M. Legoux, who has been associated with the negotiations on tin since the first agreement was concluded 19 years ago, referred to the particular difficulty of protecting the ceiling price under certain market conditions, in view of the dissimilar interests involved.

Asked whether the United States would be in the new agreement, he said the Americans had taken a very active part in the work of the conference.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to help pensions in the fight against inflation

From Mr Raymond Nottage

Sir, In a recent address at the Junior Carlton Club, Sir Geoffrey Howe drew attention to the devastating effect of inflation on funded pension schemes, especially when the rate of inflation exceeds the rate of interest which can be secured on investments. His conclusion was the need to defeat inflation.

Few are more vulnerable to the effects of inflation than the pensioners and their employees. In this objective I am, therefore, Sir Geoffrey's most ardent supporter.

On certain elements of his argument, however, there are some observations that I can perhaps usefully offer.

Sir Geoffrey rested much of his case on the capital sum of £410,000 which would need to be available, given certain currently reasonable assumptions, to provide an inflation-proofed terminal salary-related pension for a Civil Service permanent secretary now at the point of retirement and entitled to a pension starting at £3,840 per annum. He emphasized, by contrast, the impossibility of private sector organizations (or individuals) making capital provisions of that magnitude.

Fortunately arrangements that have been in force since 1859 do not require the accumulation of capital funds for the payment of Civil Service pensions. A recent review of the pay-as-you-go system by a Joint Committee of the Civil Service and the Whitley Council came to the view that a change to a funded system was not necessary for reasons of security and would have no advantage to offer.

Geoffrey was thus postulating for the Civil Service a funded system that it does not employ—nor needs to employ—and his suggestion that inflation-proofed public service pensions could require "more wealth than the Government itself believes to be available to plunder" is not really relevant, even if it is theoretically correct.

In his main argument about the advantages of a position of public servants in regard to their occupational pensions Sir Geoffrey is quite right. This is for two reasons: first, because the state's financial resources greatly exceed those

of any private sector organization; and second, because most of the public sector, as now constituted, has a certain certainty of perpetuity and can therefore employ the pay-as-you-go system of financing which is less expensive than the funded system, and is thus better able to absorb the impact of inflation.

The discussion that Sir Geoffrey has initiated on the financing of pensions in an inflationary age needs to be taken further and not for the sake of a compromise of the respective resources of the public and private sectors.

Let us suppose, terrifying though it be to do so, that those who are assumed to have power to conquer inflation are unsuccessful in their efforts and fail to produce a stable currency for the long periods of time necessary for the smooth running of pension funds. In view of this possibility I suggest that the following policies now need to be adopted:

First, private sector companies must seek to employ pay-as-you-go methods as much as possible and company based funded schemes as little as possible. The new state scheme soon to come into force will provide a useful opportunity for a move in that direction.

Second, public sector schemes must be rationalized with a view to eliminating, or greatly reducing, the funded elements which now exist—do no very good purpose and at considerable public expense, as I have argued in a booklet, *Financing Public Sector Pensions*, recently published by the Royal Institute of Public Administration.

The maximum possible use of the pay-as-you-go system would, I submit, be economical in periods when the value of money was stable.

In times of declining money values it offers the only possible means of providing for the general body of the nation's workers reasonable levels of pension related to service given during their employment and to changes in the value of money after their retirement.

Yours faithfully, RAYMOND NOTTAGGE, Director General, Royal Institute of Public Administration, Hamilton House, Mableton Place, London, WC1.

Preliminary deposits for agents

From Mr Peter Tarrant

Sir, Lord Denning may have asked "Why should body pay a preliminary deposit to an agent when he has no house?"

The proper deposit of rent is due when a contract is made. This deposit is usually paid to a solicitor who will be accountable and controlled.

Could the answer to some agents fear that money they already have must invoice their customers rendered that?

The argument that "preliminary deposit" is not held in an agent who makes a commercial house about a prospective property or who removes a house from the open market before it is safely made, will be a guard against a customer's preliminary deposit.

Yours faithfully, PETER TARRANT-WILL, 20 St Ann's Villas, Royal Crescent, London, W11.

Charity tax

From Mr Donald Rich

Sir, The method suggested by Michael Hooker (June 10) increasing the tax rate by charities on co-donations is excellent, I am an alternative which is a very good idea.

The converted pay administrative cumbersome spine of a simplified charities which has been since 1973. I would system under which donations for those in the highest tax bracket would be a minor loss if the Inland Revenue on receipts being issue donations, but this is a necessary to claim payments.

Yours faithfully, DONALD RICH, Rothsay, Weyhill, Andover, Hampshire.

Engineers and professional idealism

From Mr P. Andrew Sharma

Sir, Can we stop the progressive surrender of despairing cynicism in our philosophy of the British professions?

Caught between the anti-elitism of militant unions on one side, and the disorganized retreats of management and Government on the other, the representatives of our largest and most economically vital profession, the Council of Engineering Institutions, failed on May 29 to find the self-confidence which alone could release a great new power for good.

We were on the point of creating a unified Institution of Chartered Engineers, with an assembly directly elected by individual members. The proposal has been explained, discussed, modified and restated in the profession ever since last August, when I wrote to welcome its long overdue unveiling.

The great majority of more than 200,000 chartered engineers are in favour, but the "representatives" of some of the smaller existing institutions have voted it down. They seem to have a hopeless muddle about what professions, unions, learned societies and political allies mean to their members, and to the public. "May I try to instruct them?"

The concept of individual responsibility, dedication, integrity and service to the community is central in membership of any profession. It is given force and reality by the codes of conduct of the chartered institutions, but it is constantly being trampled on by the great boots of commercial force, major, militant union action and party politics.

The vastly increased support that a conscientious follower of the code of ethics would receive from a united and directly elected assembly, would make the present situation, would alone justify the reorganization.

It can be a conspiracy, not against the laity (in that worn-out jibe), not against big business or trade unions or any part of the present system, but for an honest sense of duty, a claim for recognition and respect, and the separation of the engineer's functions and judgments from the pressures of industrial, economic and political strife going on around him.

Some have said that if the new institution is to protect the engineer at all effectively, it must be a trade union. Others violently oppose any such idea either for fear of clashes with existing unions, or because the employee/employer confrontation should not be confused with the structure of a profession. This dispute is totally unnecessary, yet more than anything it has led to the present stalemate.

It is true that the closed shop legislation will put many chartered engineers in industry into intolerable situations, where they will deserve the support and protection that their profession ought to provide. This is a serious problem, but it is entirely separate from the immediate and equally vital

need to assert the unity and independence of the profession as a whole.

There is no faintest chance, as events over the last four years have proved, that a new professional association could use traditional trade union tactics and weapons successfully in inter-union disputes. The new institution must not be created that it can or should joust with employers or displace NALGO, ASTMS and the rest. In a land of dragons, it must be a humble shepherd.

Of course, those who that only power to it come upon which the scheme will turn as real engineers are like must have a quick re to restore our faith in professional idealism. Yours faithfully, F. ANDREW SHARMA, Chairman, Engineers Limited, 47 Victoria Street, London, SW1.

COMPANY MEETING

FORTNUM & MASON

(Foreign Warehousemen, Grocers, Wine, Spirit and Cigar Merchants and Ladies and Gentlemen's Outfit)

Chairman's Review

The 70th Annual General Meeting of Fortnum & Mason Limited was held on June 18th at the May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Street, London, W1.

The following is the statement of the Chairman, Mr W. Garfield Weston, which has been circulated with the report and accounts for the period ended 25th January, 1975.

There has been one of considerable difficulty in many aspects of our operations. In the light of these various problems I am pleased to be able to report profits in excess of last year.

Profit before taxation increased by £37,498 to £510,790 for the year, compared to £473,282 for the previous year. After charging taxation of £276,724, including £192,978 dealt with as a charge from a fallow subsidiary in respect of group taxation relief, the profit after taxation amounted to £234,066.

In view of the increase in profits it is proposed to increase the final dividend to 15.5p per share. This gives a total dividend for the year of 19p per £1 stock compared with 17.6p per £1 stock in the previous year. Dividends on the preference stock and the interim dividend on the ordinary stock were paid on the due dates.

The commencement of our year coincided with the period following the three-day working week and consumer demand remained below the level of the previous year. The declining international economic outlook particularly affecting the major industrial countries of North America, Europe and Japan resulted in a conspicuous decline in both the numbers and spending power of overseas visitors visiting London, a sector which has always provided a major element of our summer trade, and apart from brief pre-Budget spending bursts demand remained flat throughout the financial year.

At the same time costs continued to rise at an increasing rate and although economies have been made throughout the year it has been impossible to avoid entirely the effect of cost increases in virtually every area of our operations. In spite of the market situation

tion throughout the year, our share of the market in the item which we regard as our stock in trade the maintenance and improvement of the strong liquid position built up over the year enable us to ride out the current conditions now being experienced in many countries. At the same time we shall, with our long-term plan of asset modernization, improvement which will, to reap the benefit of anticipated return in command as the international outlook begins to improve.

During the year the floor has been completely refurbished and the Restaurant now occupies the whole of the floor looking as it does a famous ground floor, it is of the most fascinating places in London. This operation has been carried out on part of the site of various Patisserie, the zanine Bar, provided a light and airy room in contrast to the old Restaurant. The new Restaurant floor achieved partly by the confectionery department first floor and this has been a very successful for the department as a whole. The sales of the department have not been affected by the move and are pre-brought additional flow on to the first addition to these alterations provisions department redesigned to allow better national efficiency and customer service.

Service to the customer always be one of the mainstays upon which the Fortnum and Mason is this can only be achieved by the efforts of all our staff and the reasons why Fort Mason remains unique quality and loyalty of and in trading conditions these recently economies have been made through the store it has been impossible to avoid entirely the effect of cost increases in virtually every area of our operations. In spite of the market situation

Aquascutum
Makers of the clothing for men and women

Points of interest in the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Gerald N. Abrahams, C.B.E.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Whitbread feels desire to be a distiller

Whitbread Corporation, parent of Long John International, wants to be a distiller. That became clear during the past few days when the company's chairman, Mr. Ian Coombe, was interviewed by the Financial Editor.

Mr. Coombe said that the company's profits were down 10 per cent in 1974, but that the company was not planning to cut dividends. He said that the company was looking for a way to increase its profits, and that it was considering a move into distilling.

Mr. Coombe said that the company was looking for a way to increase its profits, and that it was considering a move into distilling. He said that the company was looking for a way to increase its profits, and that it was considering a move into distilling.

forms the position

standards, Comet Radio is effected a dramatic change in the last few months. There can be no doubt that the company is in a strong position to compete in the market.

has, apparently, taken a deliberate line on over-investing in the past. The company has been able to maintain a strong position in the market, and it is looking for a way to increase its profits.



Mr. Ian Coombe, chairman of Long John International, is interviewed by the Financial Editor.

proving it has the management to weather difficult times. Interim 1974-75 (1973-74) Capitalization £5.1m Sales £25.5m (22.8m) Pre-tax profit £1.4m (£1.2m) Dividend gross 2p (2p)

Wedge Faces tougher conditions

It is not difficult to see why Wedgwood is avoiding any profit forecast this year. The company is facing a number of challenges, and it is looking for a way to increase its profits.

Wedge costs rose 20 per cent across the group last year, to £14.7m in the United Kingdom and are expected to rise further. The company is looking for a way to increase its profits.

It is not altogether clear just who Mr. Arthur Bryn, Wedgwood's chairman, is criticizing in his annual report when he allows himself to go on about the "recent right-wing" and the "one in 1972". The March 1975 issue was priced at 95p. The issue was a sell-out and the market price (175p) is now nearly twice the offer price.

overseas manufacturers. Wedgwood is also in a fuel-intensive business, and with the phasing out of subsidies to nationalized industries, the increase in fuel bills is clearly going to be another formidable inflationary factor this year.

An historic p/e ratio of 84 leaves the share looking fully valued, however, and the yield of 44 per cent is no prop.

Accounts: 1974/75 (1973/74) Capitalization £25.5m (22.8m) Sales £25.5m (£22.8m) Pre-tax profit £1.4m (£1.2m) Earnings per share 20.94p (18.63p)

N. Greening Waiting for more. Ten days short of the initial closing date on its offer for N. Greening, the wire mesh manufacturer, Johnson & Birch Brown has yet to come up with sufficient to spur the great majority of shareholders out of their natural indolence.

Wage costs rose 20 per cent across the group last year, to £14.7m in the United Kingdom and are expected to rise further. The company is looking for a way to increase its profits.

Despite its claims that there is "industrial logic in the bid", which Greening body disputes, JFB has yet to prove that with Greening it has a fair chance of eliminating the cyclical image, and reducing the very high gearing, which have had its shares on a higher yield than those of the offer.

Business Diary: Import duty • Grand stand

risson should have a me ahead as he takes chairman of the British Confederation of Importers. He could fairly be said to be a man for the job, for which he works in one of the politically sensitive areas of imports.

Mr. Coombe said that the company was looking for a way to increase its profits, and that it was considering a move into distilling. He said that the company was looking for a way to increase its profits, and that it was considering a move into distilling.



Hollowood

"I suggest a holiday abroad. The change in the rate of inflation will do you good."

than a cause of economic malfunction. Yet importers with large stocks on their hands would like nothing more than a good bout of import control.

Medical suit Richard Grand, a lawyer in Tucson, Arizona, is president of a very exclusive United States legal body, the Inner Circle of Advocates. It has only 52 members, all of whom have been qualified by obtaining for a client an award of at least \$1m in a personal injury claim (the highest award to date is about \$7m).

ing up of a single—if possible federal—national agency. Eventually, he sees most claims being handled centrally, without the need to go to court. ("I am talking myself out of a job.")

Convinced that victims of accidents or malpractice do not get a fair deal, Grand has set up a "victims' ombudsman" and Bill of Rights under which all victims would have to have proper legal advice before accepting an offer which is usually backed by direct or indirect pressure from an insurance company.

He pointed out: "Everybody has a union these days. But there is no union to protect the rights of cripples and paraplegics."

Paper Baron Nigeria's booming oil-fuelled economy has so stimulated demand for imported goods as to precipitate the most appalling chaos and congestion at the country's principal port, Lagos. It has also sharpened up the already considerable entrepreneurial talents of the locals.

Those ships unfortunately enough not to be in membership of established shipping conferences, which have their own somewhat misleadingly termed "express berths" have to wait at anchor outside the harbour for weeks on end, the waiting time for a berth now being about 135 days.

We heard the other day of an enterprising Nigerian clerk who resigned from his job at the Elder Dempster office in Lagos some months ago and bought a small motor boat. Thus equipped, he is delivering newspapers and mail to the

Sir Monty Finiston, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, has adopted an extremely low profile since his unprecedented confrontation with Mr. Benn, when the latter was Secretary of State for Industry. He has yet to meet officially Mr. Eric Varley, the new incumbent at the Department of Industry's Victoria Street headquarters, but if yesterday's price announcements by the state steel undertaking are any guide, it will not be long before the two put their heads together.

The BSC has clearly been talking to Whitehall for some time about pricing and the huge cost increases which it faces, but it appears that in the immediate aftermath of the EEC referendum and the ministerial reshuffle Whitehall has decided that the situation faced by the corporation is so grave as to make it essential to call a halt to all the prevarication. This has been characterized so much of the discussions between the BSC and the Department of Industry over the past few months.

The acceptance by Whitehall of the need to allow the BSC to adopt a more flexible pricing policy augurs well for the development of a new relationship with the corporation, but it should be said that much more remains to be done to restore the harmonious relationship between the two.

Government intervention in its affairs has been a constant source of anxiety to the BSC ever since its incorporation, and the concern has traditionally heightened when the intervention related to pricing policy. Theoretically, under the terms of Britain's membership of the European Coal and Steel Community, the BSC has freedom of pricing on products covered by the Treaty of Paris, but the past that has never been the case. The government of the day has invariably intervened and more often than not asked the BSC to cut its proposed increases.

The latest pricing move, under which rebates are being offered of between £5 a tonne and £10 a tonne on hot rolled

coil and sheet and cold rolled coil and sheet respectively from the corporation's hard-pressed strip mills division, are designed to produce between £3m and £5m in extra revenue (as opposed to profit) in the next quarter. More important, they are designed to act as a brake on the flood of imports which have poured into Britain since last year because of the BSC's inability to meet demand after the three-day week.

The strip mills division, whose products are sold mainly to the motor and consumer goods industries, is operating at present at between 50 and 60 per cent of capacity, and the demand which the rebates are likely to generate should alleviate some of the short-time working which has been in operation for most of this year.

This is not the first time that the BSC has regularized rebate schemes on its products and it has become clear that action was needed on the pricing front if the corporation was to remain even in sight of a break-even figure in its present financial year.

As it is, the loss in prospect is some £375m, although the other measures being carried out—cost economies in raw materials purchase and manpower, among them—should greatly reduce the prospective loss.

The international steel market is in turmoil and it has never been more difficult to gauge when the upturn might come. A complication is that steel producers entered the recessionary phase at different times and it appears the German industry, which went into decline earlier than most, has been at the head of the price-cutting line which has been a source of particular concern to the BSC.

Production in West Germany last month was 3.2m tonnes, 14.4 per cent less than in the previous month, while in the first five months of this year output was 17 per cent lower than in the corresponding period of last year. The French steel industry, which has been campaigning for the introduction of production cutbacks by

Peter Hill discusses the implications of Whitehall's attitude to the latest BSC price changes

Putting flexibility into steel



Activity at a British Steel Corporation plant, but demand for the corporation's products may not revive until the middle of next year.

the EEC authorities in the face of the "manifest crisis" faced by steel internationally, experienced a 19 per cent fall in output in the first five months of this year.

In the United States production in the first five months of nearly 57 million tons was 12.4 per cent less than in the corresponding period of last year. The BSC, which at the conference of the International Iron and Steel Institute in Munich last year was alone in forecasting a 15 per cent decline in consumption, was regarded as being unduly pessimistic at the time. Although it was wrong, at least its estimates of the trend were more

accurate than the bullish forecasts of most other member nations.

Present thinking at the BSC (to which incidentally a growing number of European producers tend to subscribe) is that demand is unlikely to pick up again significantly until at least the middle of next year and perhaps even later.

Against this background the requirement for the BSC to adopt a flexible pricing posture becomes even more apparent. But flexibility, while bringing benefits to some end-users, also involves problems for others. Besides the rebates on selected strip mill products the BSC is increasing the price of pig iron,

railway rails and carbon-forged ingots from next Sunday.

Together these products account for about 1.5 per cent of the corporation's £1,700m turnover and the increases might generate further revenue of some £20m. Although the BSC yesterday was careful to stress that it is a monopoly supplier of pig iron, the Council of Ironfoundry Associations, which has protested strongly at the discriminatory nature of the price changes—noted that the BSC was the dominant supplier, accounting for about 75 per cent of the market.

The BSC pointed out that even with the increases its pig iron prices would be below those prevailing in Germany, France, Norway and Italy, but the ironfoundry industry said last night that only Norway could in any way be considered as a supplier to Britain and even then only for limited tonnages of special grades, while such comparisons ignored the present dismal exchange rate of sterling.

Prices of castings will therefore increase in accordance with the increased costs of BSC-produced pig iron, and because a large part of the ironfoundry industry's output is for the motor industry, the prices will be an appreciable counter-balance to the rebates on strip mill products.

Meanwhile, as it seeks to mitigate the effects of the large additional costs which it now faces, the BSC is expected to press Mr. Varley and his officials for a quick decision on its request for a cheap financing to support a build-up of stocks of semi-finished steel. The BSC clearly cannot finance such a programme from its own resources and it has been involved in protracted discussions with the Department of Industry and the Treasury about obtaining approval to secure funds, estimated at £100m at least, to carry through this exercise.

The EEC authorities have apparently raised no objection and the BSC executives are hopeful that Mr. Varley's attitude will be equally positive.

Railways: time for a new departure in state industry wage fixing

Eric Wigham

in a vital national industry. It is true that there has not been a national strike by the NUR during the quarter century and only one by the footplatemen.

Whether or not the present threat of a NUR strike is avoided, it is obvious that we are as far as ever from a reasoned method of dealing with railwaymen's claims. At least eight times during the 25 years the eventual settlement has been a surrender to force.

This has been partly the result of regularly attempting to use ability to pay as a criteria in an industry which has been in the red throughout the period. Almost every railway claim should have been rejected on that basis, rigidly interpreted.

When Sidney Weighall suggested last month that the inability of British Rail to meet their claim was irrelevant, he was repeating, in different words, what the Cameron inquiry said 20 years ago. It was, in fact, a statement of the obvious.

But the principle of comparability cannot work satisfactorily unless the workers cooperate in increasing effici-

ency—something they often promise but less often perform. Perhaps it cannot be brought about without giving them a greater share in the responsibilities of management. The railways are not an industry in which a satisfactory incentive scheme can be easily applied.

Acceptance of the principle, of course, does not mean that everybody should get the same increase that the miners get. Still less does it mean that because the miners break a contract others are justified in doing so. But it is desirable to establish fair relationships between pay in nationalized industries if the crises of this kind are to be avoided.

A fortnight ago I referred on this page to the case for coordinated bargaining in the major industries in order to avoid leap-frogging wage claims. The case for coordinated bargaining in the public sector is even stronger.

The publicly-owned have one employer. It is the Government that decides what is conceded to them because the Government holds the pursestrings. These industries include most of those, such as coal, railways, electricity and so on, which have the power to bring the country to a standstill.

It may be remembered that when Mr. Macmillan was Prime Minister in 1955 he weighed the

balance of disadvantage between strikes and inflationary wage settlements. He got his departmental officials to go into the economic costs of industrial disputes and came to the conclusion that, except in such industries as electric power, mining, the railways and the docks, the granting of higher wages at that time was more damaging to the economy than stoppages.

It is competition between these industries, rather than a collective will which destroys an incomes policy. If they could be induced to negotiate together with the Government, leaving the detailed interpretation of their collective bargain to be worked out section by section, it would provide a stabilizing factor in wage movements which would be invaluable.

It would involve a drastic change in attitudes and it may well be questioned whether the miners, in particular, would be likely to agree to any settlement which would be acceptable to the others, or to the Government. Mediation by the TUC or the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, or some other impartial body, would probably be necessary. But a radical change in the machinery of wage-fixing is essential if the present mounting inflation is to be halted.

"I am not pessimistic about our prospects and quite a modest percentage recovery in the construction industry might cause us to surprise even ourselves."

From the annual statement to shareholders by Richard Otley, F.C.A., Chairman.

SIX YEAR RECORD (£000)	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Sales	120,343	101,414	61,433	52,455	45,830	40,045
Trading profit	7,311	9,508	4,366	2,670	2,116	2,160
Interest	3,618	1,419	692	870	728	603
Profit before taxation	3,693	8,090	3,674	1,800	1,388	1,558
Taxation	2,090	4,329	1,553	748	470	656
Profit after taxation	1,603	3,761	2,121	1,052	918	902
Net assets per ordinary share	52p	48p	37p	31p	30p	29p

WILLIAM MALLINSON & DENNY MOTT Ltd

International merchants and manufacturers of wood based products

Copies of the full Report & Accounts are available from The Secretary, 130 Hackney Road, London. E2 7QR.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Rental income rise to offset dealing drop at Hammerson

Matching pre-tax profits of £3.1m this year were forecast for Hammerson Property & Investment Trust by Mr Sidney Mason, chairman, yesterday.

He said after the annual meeting that dealing profits would decline but rental income should be better to restore overall earnings. He believed that property values had risen slightly since last year because of a higher demand for "triple A" property. World wide the group's property values stood at £300m, a bit more than the £283m shown in the accounts.

As a sidelight Mr Mason said the Brent Cross development, which is 80 per cent let, would be delayed about six months at a cost of £1m. Strengthening work was required after the use of the high-alumina quick-drying cement.

In the United Kingdom the chairman believed the property development market would not recover until building costs were not rising at more than 10 per cent a year. This year costs are growing by 20 per cent, the same as last year, and Hammerson is undertaking no more United Kingdom developments after it completes existing sites.

Some idea of how commercial and industrial values are improving comes from Property Holding Investment Trust. Here the board considers that an estimate of open market values on May 30 exceeds by 8½ per cent the comparable book value two months before.

Ashbourne interests attack bid for Argentine S Land

Mr Lionel Casper, representing substantial interests in the capital of Ashbourne Investments, which owns about 25 per cent of the capital of Argentine Southern Land, has issued a statement attacking the offer of 60p a share (about £2.4m) by Great Western Corporation for all the 25p ordinary stock units of ASL.

He declares that ASL's shareholders are being asked to terminate the company's independence by selling out at a fraction of asset value to unknown parties; and "they are being encouraged by their directors on the basis of one year's lower trading profits and Argentine political scaremongering."

"We are pursuing steps to ensure that Ashbourne-ASL's largest shareholder—does not accept the present GWC offer in respect of its holding," and other shareholders are called upon to take no action for the time being.

Great Western is an investment holding company based in Luxembourg. Mr Kenneth Suggett, chairman and managing director of ASL, sent out the formal recommendation after last week. He and his board are being advised by Baring Bros.

The share capital of Great Western is stated to be held by residents of Luxembourg on behalf of a group of South American residents.

Brook St target up to over £1m

If present trends continue, Brook Street Bureau, of Mayfair, the office staff agency, will meet its forecast of pre-tax profits exceeding £500,000, against £489,000 in the six months to June. So said Mr Eric Hurst, joint chairman, yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference on the annual report the joint chairman said his expectation for the full year was for profits down from £1.28m to "a little better than £1m"—updating the £921,000 minimum figure given in the report. He explained that he wrote that five weeks ago and "on current trends I was a little on the cautious side."

This year is likely to prove tough, but the company has exercised "rigorous" control over costs and capital expenditure.

The industrial division is still showing some weakness and the placing of temporary staff has only just begun to show its normal seasonal upturn.

Seaham-Panel gives ruling

At the request of the Takeover Panel holders of 70 per cent of the ordinary shares of Seaham Harbour Dock Company have qualified the commitments given by them to accept the offer made by Tinline Estates.

The commitments will now only be binding to the extent that an offer higher than Tinline's £26 a share offer is not forthcoming before June 25. The Tinline offer is worth a total of £585,000.

Stock markets

Shares slip as buyers stay away

Stock market trading was overshadowed yesterday by the prospects for the national rail strike, which is threatened in one week's time. The first day of the new equity market trading saw share prices slipping lower as the major investors remained on the sidelines. Towards the end of the day, renewed pressure on the pound unsettled government bonds, as well as bringing a further mark down in share prices.

Gilt had a quiet day. "Shorts" were firm and generally showed rises of ½ point on the day, with part of this due to a hardening after-hours.

Modest selling depressed "longs" in the morning and most stocks were ½ or ¾ point lower than Friday's closing levels. But they then steadied and closed a shade off the worst. The coupon rate on today's "yearling" issue is expected to be 11½ per cent.

Buyers were interested in shares of Daniel Doncaster, whose results are due today. The market is looking for profits exceeding £2m pre-tax.

Friday night's rally, on the improvement in the United Kingdom trade figures for May, proved short-lived in the equity market. On Friday's closing orders had been completed, interest in the market began to wane. For the rest of the day, share prices drifted back in the lightest trading—in terms of market bargains—since January this year, which was the very start of the recovery in equities.

Weakest among the market leaders were shares in Glaxo Holdings, down to 375p on renewed selling. This represents a loss of 2½p in the new (ex rights) form. ICI (287½p) and B&S (330p) were other recent favourites to turn down.

Heavy industrials remained without supporters and consumer stocks were upset by fears that the Government will soon be forced to introduce a clamp down on domestic spending.

Babcock & Wilcox ran back as the new account found the shares meeting only the speculators who had bought during the previous fortnight. At 258p Tube Investments again ran into sellers as the trading level profits include payments from the Ministry of Agriculture for earlier years of £123,000. The comparable figure was £137,000.

The total dividend rises from 6.06p to 6.46p.

active ahead of confirmation of the bid and touched 182½, a net gain on the day of 25p.

Bank and financial shares were unable to retain the impetus shown on Friday night. Early gains in the leading bankers disappeared later as support faded away. By the end of the session, Barclays (310p), and Lloyds (260p) were at overnight levels, having shed initial rises of several pence. Shares in Hambros Bank eased to 165p, but the market remained very satisfied with last week's profit statement and its details on the situation in the tanker finance area.

Shares in Owen Owen, the Liverpool based departmental store group, were firm as the market took note of the encouraging words from the chairman at last week's AGM.

Interest in the insurance section was thin, with early gains also lost as the buyers withdrew. Sun Alliance gave ground. Turnover in property shares was thin. The dull spot was Land Securities, whose results are due on Thursday.

Oil shares remained subdued behind the developments on the Middle East front. Lacking support from the United States, BP ended a few pence better at 520p, but Shell at 316p looked dull. Interest in Buremah Oil (31p) was again at a low ebb.

Interest in gold shares was thin, and most of the producers turned down although interest was small. P. Brand (22½p) and P. Serravallo (17p) were ½p lower at the end of the session.

Equity turnover on June 13, £82.6m (18,062 bargains). Active stocks on Friday, according to Exchange Telegraph were Glaxo, ICI, Grand Metropolitan, Unilever, EMI, BP, B&S, Lomro, Marks & Spencer, and Shell.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord	Year	Year	Year	Year
(and par values)	div	ago	ago	ago	ago
Adams Bros (Hosiery) (25p)	1.87	1.77	—	2.74	2.52
Fin	1.15	—	—	2.33	2.15
Bulmer & Lumb (20p) Fin	1.2	1.15	—	2.33	2.15
Calfyns (50p) Fin	2.4	2.4	—	4.8	4.8
Clover House (25p) Fin	2.8	2.38	30/7	4.25	4.13
Comet Radiovision (5p) Int	1.3	1.34	12/8	—	2.68
Country & New Town (10p)	0.65	0.63	—	0.65	0.63
Elect & Gen Inv (25p) Fin	0.55	0.55	—	1.0	1.0
Leeds (34p) Int	1.15	1.05	7/8	—	3.53
Warren Tea (11p) Fin	3.72	3.44	31/7	5.92	5.45

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax in pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. * Includes 10c capital redemption.

Prudent dividend from Amgold

Though investment income at Anglo American Gold Investment Co rose from £51.6m to £57.2m in the first six months of 1975, the dividend has gone up by only 10c to 110c. Income accruing during the period reflected the high level of declarations from the individual gold mines on the stock exchange, but the dividend policy has been influenced by the reductions announced by some mines earlier this month.

Yael Reef, for example, brought in an extra £11.0m to Amgold during the period but its latest reduction will reduce the income in the second half by £777,000.

Net asset value as at June 13 was little changed on that a year ago at £49.31, or £30.82p, which compares with last night's closing price of £41.

Crawford/Mohasco warp yarn printing plant and other assets for £456,000 in cash.

Clover Dairies watch forecast

Almost exactly in line with the interim forecast, Clover Dairies reports that pre-tax profits for the year to March 29 fell by 8 per cent to £1.1m. The second half produced £412,000, against £436,000.

Turnover rose from £20m to £24.6m and the interest charge was £87,000, compared with a credit of £5,000. At the trading level profits include payments from the Ministry of Agriculture for earlier years of £123,000. The comparable figure was £137,000.

The total dividend rises from 6.06p to 6.46p.

No EVA-Francis link

The proposed takeover of Francis Industries by Eva Industries is off. Both boards have agreed that to proceed would not be in the interests of shareholders and, with the consent of the Panel of Takeovers and Mergers, the offer will not proceed.

Bulmer & Lumb

Although turnover of Bulmer & Lumb (Holdings), the Bradford-based worsted spinners, in the year to March 30 jumped over £2m from £13.1m to £15.4m, taxable profits are returned to the greatly changed from last year's £524,000 to £541,000. The profit

Bucknall rights

The board of Bucknall Trust, a London-based investment trust, plans to raise £546,000 by a rights issue of three-for-two at 40p. The issue has been underwritten.

Tomkinson's slither

The pre-tax profits of Tomkinson's (Holdings), the carpet maker and spinner, have fallen almost two-thirds in the 25 week period to March 22. They slipped from £539,000 to £115,000, though turnover jumped from £3.6m to £4.2m. As known, the wholly owned subsidiary, St Mary's Carpets has sold its

Business appointments

Sir Jeremy Morse deputy chief at Lloyds Bank Int

Sir Jeremy Morse has been made a director and deputy chairman of Lloyds Bank International. Mr Henry Hanley has also joined the board. Sir Geoffrey Wallinger and Mr James Lloyds are retiring from the board.

Mr David Milne has joined the board of Wilmot Breeden (Holdings) as financial director. Mr Geoffrey Knight, vice-chairman of British Aircraft Corporation, has joined the Guinness Peat Group. He is also director and executive vice-chairman of Fenchurch Insurance Holdings.

Mr W. Townsend has been elected chairman of B. E. Jackson, recently acquired by Whitbread. Mr P. A. Gould also joins the board.

Mr Donald Haller has become president of the National Association of British and Irish Millers.

Mr N. J. B. Salmon, who is retiring at the end of the month as United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland manager for National Mutual Life Association, of Australia, has been succeeded by Mr D. C. Aspinwall.

Mr M. F. Odling, ICI Fibres' director of merchandising, has been made commercial director of South African Nylon Spunners, an associate company of ICI, since the retirement of Mr J. H. Whitehead.

Mr C. M. Hughes is to be an additional director of W. H. Haffet.

Mr G. M. Simon has been made a director and chairman of L. Leeder (Doors).

Mr Gordon Bay has been made a director and chairman of West Cumberland Shipbuilding, the death of Mr Michael Allen.

Mr V. L. Cox is to be a director of the National Federation of Retail Trade Employees' international activities, and is also to become a director of the Joinery and Timber Construction Association.

Mr David Gaffney has been made managing director of Quaker Products Australia.

Mr A. Gordon-Robson, who is retiring as managing director of Airflow Developments, is appointed chairman. Mr C. L. Myles, director, is to become managing director. Four senior executives join the board: Mr P. Bagley, design and development; Mr R. Barnett, works; Mr D. Layzell, financial director and company secretary; and Mr B. Wilson, marketing.

Mr Ben Johnson has been elected president of the Institute of Building.

Mr G. A. Brown has been made a director of the Beaufort Group. Mr Alex Farquharson is the new president of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants.

Mr Tom Harrison managing director of Tozer Kemsley and Milbourn, has been elected chairman of the British Importers' Confederation.

Mr Jonathan A. Bodlander has been elected chairman of the British Association of Hotel Accountants.

Mr M. Lander is to be chairman of The National Association of Pension Funds.

Mr R. M. L. Borne and Mr M. B. Church have been appointed directors of R. P. Martin Stealing.

Mr F. Scamell has been appointed to the board of Duck-wazi Tea and Rubber Estates.

INTERIM STATEMENT

COMET

RADIOVISION SERVICES LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	26 Weeks Ended		Financial Year Ended
	1st March, 1975	2nd March, 1974	31st August, 1974
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Group Turnover	25,626	28,609	48,848
Group Profit before Taxation	1,408	1,159	1,466
Estimated Taxation	754	624	845
Group Profit after Taxation	654	535	621
Extraordinary items net of Taxation	260	—	(16)
Group Profit after Extraordinary items	914	535	605
Earnings per Ordinary Share	5.3p	4.3p	5.0p

Figures shown for March 1974 are unaudited.

INTERIM DIVIDEND. The Board has declared an interim dividend of 1.3p per ordinary share on which shareholders resident in the United Kingdom will be entitled to a tax credit of 0.7p making the equivalent of a gross dividend of 2p. This dividend will be paid on 12th August, 1975, to members on the register at the close of business on 11th July, 1975, and will amount to £161,460.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	At 1st March, 1975	At 31st August, 1974
	£000's	£000's
Fixed Assets	3,540	4,783
Current Assets:		
Stocks	6,229	8,336
Debtors	436	366
Cash and Bank	2,158	12
	8,823	8,714
Current Liabilities:		
Bank Overdraft	—	2,642
Creditors	5,693	4,633
Provision for Warranties	444	271
	6,137	7,546
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	2,686	(832)
	6,226	3,951
Share Capital	621	621
Reserves	2,468	1,716
Shareholders Funds	3,089	2,337
Deferred Income	580	470
Deferred Taxation	2,557	1,144
	6,226	3,951

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

PROFIT FOR THE HALF-YEAR. I consider that the profits achieved during the 26 weeks to 1st March, 1975, are satisfactory, the more so since they include no profit from rental which produced £165,000 for the similar period in 1973/74.

Included in these profits is interest earned of £114,000, which arose from the sale of various assets of which the television rentals contributed £1.73m, as previously reported. Interest charges totalled £23,000.

As can be seen from the Profit and Loss Account, the sale of our television rental business produced an extraordinary pre-tax profit of £576,000.

HALF-YEAR BALANCE SHEET. Due to the satisfactory trading results, deferral of tax for stock relief and the sale of assets mentioned above, the Company is in a strong financial position, as can be seen from the attached Balance Sheet as at 1st March, 1975. Cash at bank amounted to £2,158,000 compared with a net overdraft of £2,630,000 at 31st August, 1974.

CURRENT TRADING. After the budget and its delayed increases in V.A.T. rates, trade reached unprecedented levels. Our stocks, with help from manufacturers, were sufficient to take maximum advantage of this situation and are now well balanced. Since 1st May, sales have been running at a much lower level than last year but are rapidly recovering. It is obviously difficult to make meaningful forecasts at present, but we expect to return to normal by September.

However, we are confident that profits for the year, excluding extraordinary items, will be substantially in excess of those for last year.

THE FUTURE. I believe that the position of the low overhead retailer in the market place is relatively improved by high levels of V.A.T., since we need add less value and high V.A.T. further increases the competitiveness of our prices; we are hoping to increase our market share.

I said in my last report that there were many locations which were suitable for Comet satellite discount shops in less densely populated towns and we have now made plans to open the first twenty of this type of outlet. Further openings will take place when we have assessed their performance.

REGISTERED OFFICE

KING CHARLES HOUSE, GEORGE STREET, HULL HU1 3AU.

Slower pace by WGI, but profits more than doubled to £964,000

As expected WGI, the Cheshire-based engineering group, has not kept up the spanking pace set at half time, even so, pre-tax profits more than doubled from £472,000 to £964,000 in the full year to March 31. Turnover was just ahead at £17.5m.

After six months' profits of £536,000 were higher than in the whole of the previous year, but the slower pace of the second six months saw growth reduced to 60 per cent at £428,000. After a sharply higher tax charge, minorities and extraordinary items, the profit available stood at £372,000 against £168,000. Earnings were 27.7p against 13.6p, a share.

Ladbroke sells property and looks to Europe

Ladbroke Holidays, one arm of the betting and gaming concern in Ladbroke Group chaired by Mr Cyril Stein, is continuing to seek a large centre in the United Kingdom and Europe. Meanwhile the group has sold its office block in Harborne near Birmingham for £615,000, and two holiday sites in Norfolk for about £250,000.

At the recent annual meeting the chairman said that business was buoyant. At present the group is well set for another good year following a 38 per cent gain to more than £10m in 1974. The only disappointment of late was the failure of the merger plans with Vernons Organisation.

Occidental I from oil and gas operation

Preliminary results from Occidental Petroleum for the month ended show that net income per cent down on the pending period last year. The company, mainly because of the decline in the Occidental's overall oil operations, and because of increased domestic income. Although coal and operations this year formed the comparison last year, the net in such operations did decline in the oil and gas operations.

F.B. FOSTER BROTHERS Clothing Company Limited

"In the first quarter of the current year we have got off to a promising start... providing there is no further tinkering in retailers affairs your Company should be able to look forward to a progressive year's trading and a further worthwhile improvement in profit."

H. G. High, (Chairman)

Other salient points from the Chairman's circulated statement.

- Although the year 1974 offered nothing but a severe challenge and a multitude of problems turnover increased by £6.5m to £34,350,927.
- A strong recovery in the second half of the year reduced our short fall in the first half profits. Trading profit was £3,103,026 against £3,327,529.
- A Final Dividend of 5.55% is recommended making 8.55% for the year, the maximum permitted.
- Your Group will continue expansion but on a carefully controlled and selective basis.
- Bank borrowings down from £2.7m to £880,000 and will be further reduced during current year.

Trading through approximately 700 retail outlets

FOSTER MENSWEAR: DORMIE
STONE-DRI: ADAMS CHILDRENSWEAR
FOSTER BROTHERS

CARLESS CARLESS CAPEL & LEONARD

PETROLEUM—CHEMICALS—OFFSHORE EXPLORATION

Results	Year ending March 1975	1974
Group turnover Home	£15,908,000	£ 8,75
Export	£ 3,180,000	£ 1.67
	£19,088,000	£10.42
Group profit before tax (after special charges)	£ 2,184,000	£ 1.19
Profit after tax	£ 982,000	£ 45
Attributable to Ordinary shareholders	£ 888,000	£ 45
Ordinary dividend (net) (proposed final dividend—0.4453p)	£ 111,000	£ 10
Earnings per share (1974 adjusted)	6.5p	
*Pension contribution:	£ 651,000	£ 20
Exceptional depreciation:	£ 414,000	£ 24

In order to expand Refinery processing and storage for the Company is raising £1.97m. by a rights issue of ordinary shares at 40p per share for every three shares held. The dividends paid and proposed for 1974/75 total 0.5p per share, the maximum permitted. In the absence of such circumstances, expected dividends for 1975/76 1.5p per share. Treasury consent has been obtained. Oil has been discovered in a North Sea block in which Company has a 5% interest.

Report and Accounts available from The Secretary, Capel & Leonard Limited, Petrol House, Hockley Wick, London E3 3HD

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

ice by W
ore than
o £964,000

ANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

y of Westminster calls for £12m

running yield of 13.3pc

ast local government
the £17m blockbuster
Greater London Coun-
cil, the largest amount
ed on the market by a
entity in a single issue,
a failure, as only 13
of the 12 1/2 per cent
ar issue was applied for
public. To rest the
the two-month
12m issue is now made
ity of Westminster with
cent redeemable stock
price of £97 1/2.
a issue £10 is payable
cardon, £40 on July 15

Bank Base Rates

Bank of England	9 1/2%
Barclays Bank	9 1/2%
Bank of America	9 1/2%
Westminster Bank	9 1/2%
City of London	11 1/2%
Century Bank	11 1/2%
London & Lancashire	9 1/2%

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
35 Armistice & Rhodes	45	-1	3.0	6.7
90 Henry Sykes	125	-	4.9	4.0
29 Twinklark Ord	38	-	0.8	2.3
45 Twinklark ULS	61	-	12.0	19.7

INTERIM STATEMENT
NGLO AMERICAN GOLD INVESTMENT
COMPANY LIMITED ("AMGOLD")

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
REPORT FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1975
AND NOTICE OF INTERIM DIVIDEND NO. 55

	Estimated for Half-Year Ending 30.6.75	Half-Year Ending 30.6.74	Year Ending 31.12.74
Investment income	37,210	31,590	72,301
Interest earned and other income	1,773	827	2,043
Surplus on realisation of investments	-	1,714	2,190
Profit	38,983	34,131	76,534
Less administration expenses, interest paid and prospecting and mineral rights expenses	1,173	554	1,239
Group profit	37,810	33,577	75,295
Less of interim dividend No. 55 of 110 cents a share	24,147	21,952	-
Number of shares in issue	21,952,012	21,952,012	21,952,012
Dividend per share—cents	172	153	243
Yield per share—cents	110	100	250

No taxation has been provided, the company and its subsidiaries having computed tax losses.

It should not be assumed that the results for the first half of the year are necessarily proportionate to the results for the year ending 31st December, 1975 for the following reasons:

(a) Investment income does not accrue evenly through the year.

(b) The realisation of investments fluctuates with policy decisions and market conditions.

(c) Certain costs, particularly those incurred on prospecting and mineral rights, are not incurred evenly through the year.

Particulars of the Group's listed investments and the net asset value are as follows:

	At 30.6.75	At 30.6.74	At 31.12.74
Marked to market value	1,055,115	1,055,824	1,241,567
Book value	126,574	106,062	106,793
Appreciation	928,541	949,762	1,134,774

(b) Net asset value which includes unlisted investments at book value—cents a share

	At 30.6.75	At 30.6.74	At 31.12.74
Net asset value	4,931	4,924	5,807

* The last practical date before publication of these results.

NOTICE OF INTERIM DIVIDEND NO. 55

Notice is hereby given that dividend No. 55 of 110 cents per share (1974: 100 cents) being the interim dividend for the year ending 31st December, 1975 has been declared payable to shareholders registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 27th June, 1975 and to persons presenting coupon No. 55 marked "South Africa" detached from share warrants to bearer.

The transfer registers and registers of members will be closed from 28th June to 30th July, 1975, both days inclusive, and warrants will be posted from Johannesburg to United Kingdom offices of the transfer secretaries on or about 7th August, 1975. Registered shareholders paid from the United Kingdom will receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent on 29th July, 1975 of the rand value of their dividends (as appropriate taxes). Any such shareholders may however elect to be paid in United Kingdom currency, provided that any such request is received at the offices of a company's transfer secretaries in Johannesburg or in the United Kingdom on or before 27th June, 1975.

The dividend is payable subject to conditions which can be inspected at the head office of the company and also at the offices of the company's transfer secretaries in Johannesburg and the United Kingdom.

Holders of share warrants to bearer are notified that the dividend is payable on or after 8th August, 1975, upon presentation of coupon No. 55 (marked "South Africa") only at the offices of Barclays National Bank Limited, Stock Exchange Branch, 100, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, or at the offices of the transfer secretaries in Johannesburg, 6 & 8 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris 9e, France and Banque Lambert, Avenue Marais, Brussels, Belgium. Coupons must be left at least four clear days before presentation.

Proceeds of dividends in respect of coupons marked "South Africa" may, at the request of the depositors, be converted through an authorised dealer in exchange in the Republic of South Africa, into any currency. The effective rate of exchange for conversion into any such currency will be that prevailing at the time the proceeds of the dividends are deposited with the authorised dealer in exchange.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax is 15 per cent.

GENERAL

Copies of this report will be despatched to all registered shareholders from the office of the transfer secretaries in Johannesburg and the United Kingdom as soon as possible.

For and on behalf of the Board

W. D. Wilson

H. F. Oppenheimer

Transfer Secretaries
Consolidated Share Registrars Limited,
62, Marshall Street,
Johannesburg, 2001.
(P.O. Box 61051, Marshfield 2107)
Charter Consolidated Limited,
P.O. Box 102,
Charter House,
Bank Street,
Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ.

Lonsdale's growth peaks out

Lonsdale Universal, with interests in office equipment and stationery, publishing and book-binding, retailing, engineering, packaging, printing and property is still growing, but more slowly.

In the half year to March 31 last pre-tax profits rose by nearly 15 per cent to £539,000. But in the year to last September they went ahead by 40 per cent to £1.27m. Turnover in the

latest six months climbed by 20 per cent to £9.1m.

Part of the trouble was the jump of more than a quarter to £1.77m in interest and management costs but the latest figures still fit in with the confidence expressed by the chairman, Mr Norman Ramseyer, last March.

Trading now seems to be toughening. Conditions in the second quarter were notably

harder than in the first three months, especially in retailing and packaging where there was redundancy.

The directors add that it seems unlikely that there will be any material improvement in packaging from now on. But the full year's profits should be similar to those of 1973-74. Meanwhile the interim dividend rises from 1.56p a share gross to 1.77p.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

Issue	Price	Yield
100% 1981	100.00	10.00%
100% 1982	99.50	10.50%
100% 1983	99.00	11.00%
100% 1984	98.50	11.50%
100% 1985	98.00	12.00%
100% 1986	97.50	12.50%
100% 1987	97.00	13.00%
100% 1988	96.50	13.50%
100% 1989	96.00	14.00%
100% 1990	95.50	14.50%

Foreign Exchange

Sterling closed weaker on European foreign exchange yesterday, losing 80 points against the dollar, to close at \$2.2755.

Continued uneasiness abroad over high British inflation overshadowed the pound, dealers said.

However, calmer trading returned to European markets. Moderate sales of sterling were virtually confined to the opening and closing part of the session, dealers said.

The sharply lower United Kingdom May made deficit, reported on Friday helped to support the pound, dealers said. But overseas concern was evident ahead of the threatened United Kingdom rail strike next week.

Sterling managed a minor recovery in forward markets, with its three-month discount in terms of the dollar narrowing to 250-300 points. The pound's "depreciation rate" widened to 26.2 per cent from 25.9 on Friday.

Gold fell 25 cents an ounce, to \$164.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market	Rate
New York	\$2.2755
London	£1.0000
Paris	FFr. 65.48
Frankfurt	DM. 3.36
Geneva	Sfr. 2.00
Brussels	Bfr. 36.36
Amsterdam	fl. 2.20
Stockholm	Skr. 4.66
Copenhagen	Dkr. 4.82
Oslo	Nkr. 4.76
Stockholm	Skr. 4.66
Copenhagen	Dkr. 4.82
Oslo	Nkr. 4.76

Forward Levels

Month	Rate
1 month	\$2.2755
3 months	\$2.2755
6 months	\$2.2755
9 months	\$2.2755
12 months	\$2.2755

Clark, Morland dips

Sheepskin specialist, Clark, Son & Morland, of Glastonbury, reports a dip in pre-tax profits from £674,000 to £535,000 for the year ended March 3, 1975. Turnover rose to £10.52m from £8.65m, of which exports accounted for £3.24m against £2.38m. The dividend is 19.1p compared with 16.4p. The company makes the Morlands brand of footwear and clothing and supplies Tesco's sheepskins.

Discount market

There was a full supply of credit at the start of what is expected to be a comfortable week for the Discount Market. The Bank of England eventually "mopped up" surplus liquidity by selling a moderate amount of Treasury bills directly to the houses.

However, underlying factors suggested there was still a sizable sum left in the system.

Money was on offer from the outset and with very little calling "to" speak of, rates fell away from about 9 per cent down to as low as 7 per cent by early afternoon. Conditions did tighten just a shade towards the close, with final balances taken between 7 1/2 and 8 per cent.

Money Market Rates

Rate	Yield
3 months	7.00%
6 months	7.50%
9 months	8.00%
12 months	8.50%

Recent Issues

Issue	Amount
100% 1981	£100m
100% 1982	£100m
100% 1983	£100m
100% 1984	£100m
100% 1985	£100m
100% 1986	£100m
100% 1987	£100m
100% 1988	£100m
100% 1989	£100m
100% 1990	£100m

Country & NT jump

The pre-tax profits of Country & New Town Properties jumped from £402,000 to £569,000 in the year to January 31 and the dividend goes up from 0.93p to 1p. British & Commonwealth Shipping has a 29.7 per cent stake in the group's equity, a big subsidiary in Civil Service Supply Association.

Wool market is waiting for an end to a 'hand-to-mouth' existence

Yet another market waiting hopefully for an improvement in the economic climate is wool, which has had to weather a severe slump in demand during the 1974-75 season.

Nor does the worst seem to be over. The Commonwealth Secretariat says in its annual Wool Statistics, published this month, that the market outlook is still far from certain although it switches to more expansionary policies in most overseas countries could lead to a slow improvement in industrial production by late this year.

But textile industry order books are not yet picking up nor are they likely to until retail sales improve significantly. However, the secretariat sees a demand revival having a positive impact because inventories of raw wool and semi-manufactures are low, or at any rate no longer at excessive levels, order books have been run down and business is being built up.

Still a bogey is competition from man-made fibres but there is hope that the competitive position of wool could be strengthened by the man-made fibres producer policy in the latter half of last year of cutting output rather than cutting selling prices in the face of excess capacity.

World conditions have too much impact on the textile industry for it to be able to move against the trend and, for the period covered by the report, the trend has been downwards. But the secretariat sees a small glimmer of light in that there are indications that spinners and ropmakers are beginning to replenish stocks.

On Friday Mr Alfred Maiden, chairman of the Australian Wool Corporation, told an International Wool Textile Organisation conference in Monaco that the AWC would consider raising its reserve prices above the 250-cent floor level if the market improved in the coming season.

Mr Wolff has no hesitation in saying that the objections of the unofficials—or "anti's" as he prefers to call them—are insubstantial and show that they do not understand the functions of a terminal market.

There is little doubt that the objective has in mind the fact that Hongkong has had its better shops and fear that the smaller speculator would get his fingers burned.

But Mr Wolff points out that although an element of speculation is an inescapable adjunct of a terminal market, the rules suggested by the consortium for a Hongkong market are far stricter than those applying in Europe.

Stressing that a well-run commodities market adds business to world markets, Mr Wolff feels that not only is there a need, but that Hongkong is ideally situated and all the main countries of South-East Asia are anxious for commodity markets.

When things were at lowest ebb

The year under review was indeed a gloomy one for the wool market. Reacting to escalating prices in 1973-74 and the acute shortages of wool and competing fibres which followed, there was a recovery of 5 per cent in world production—but this came just at the time when the industry was at its lowest ebb since the war.

From the latter half of 1973, through 1974 and into 1975, wool consumption was on the decline, over supply developed, prices tumbled and the main producing countries had stockpiles of unprecedented size, notably Australia because the supply-demand imbalance was especially marked in merino wool.

In the first three-quarters of the season the Australian Wool Corporation bought in an average of 46 per cent of wools put to auction to main-

Speculating about speculation

A possibility that the Hongkong Wool Textile Corporation might vote against the establishment of a commodity exchange there when it debates the matter on Wednesday has arisen from a meeting last week of unofficial (non-government) members of the council.

Although the "unofficials" have put up one or two reasons for their opposition, such as the lack of a market for the wool, they are not in favour of an exchange, and preferring to wait to see how proposed controls on Hongkong commodity dealers would work, there is no doubt that the real sticking point is a fear on their part that an exchange would attract what they term to be "irresponsible speculation".

The project for a commodity exchange in Hongkong is the baby of Mr Jack Wolff, a director of Rudolf Wolff & Co. who are members of the con-

CITY OF WESTMINSTER
ISSUE OF

£12,000,000 City of Westminster
13 per cent Redeemable Stock, 1981

(authorized by the Council of the City of Westminster and issued in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1963 and the Local Authority (Stocks and Bonds) Regulations 1974.)

Price of Issue £97 1/2 per cent

On Application	£10 per cent
On 15th July, 1975	£40 per cent
On 21st August, 1975	£47 1/2 per cent

Interest (less Income Tax) will be payable half-yearly on the 15th April and the 15th October. A first payment of £2,250 (less Income Tax) per £100 Stock will be made on the 15th October 1975.

The Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act, 1961.

In accordance with a Resolution passed by the Council of the City of Westminster on the 15th October 1974, the City of Westminster Bank Limited is authorized to receive applications for the above amount of Stock at the New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD.

1. Security.—The Stock and the interest thereon will be secured on all the revenues of the City of Westminster and will rank pari passu with the existing and future debt of the Council.

2. Redemption.—The Stock, when fully paid, will be registered and transferred in multiples of £100. The City of Westminster Bank Limited is authorized to receive applications for the above amount of Stock at the New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD.

3. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

4. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

5. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

6. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

7. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

8. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

9. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

10. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

11. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

12. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

13. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

14. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

15. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

16. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

17. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

18. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

19. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

20. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

21. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

22. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

23. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

24. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

25. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

26. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

27. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

28. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

29. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

30. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

31. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

32. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

33. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

34. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

35. Redemption of Stock.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on the 15th October 1981, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holder.

Uneasy market

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

CLERK/TYPIST with knowledge of bookkeeping required for furnished flats and houses Department of Kensington Estate Agents. Salary 3.3.6. Tel.: 537 6091. Mrs. Cleveland.

INTERIOR DESIGN SHOP need

SITUATIONS

SECRETARY

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

BUTLER

MOTOR CARS

FERRARI SUPERFAST 500 RHD

RARE COLLECTORS ITEM

only 30 produced. 7th U.K. Registered November, 1965. Pininfarina saloon, Super Sport, mileage 30,888. Currently fitted with chrome wheels; tyre mileage below 2,500; spare wheel unused. Four extra winter wheels, fitted with new tyres, plus one additional unused tyre. Complete set of tools. Car in impeccable condition. Serviced only by Concessionaires. Similar car sold USA 1974, \$13,335. Only £15,900. Box 255 M. The Times.

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

CONVERTIBLE BUICK

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

MOTOR CARS

